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**ANDERSONVILLE OR FIFTEEN MONTHS IN REBEL PRISONS,
BY THOMAS ASBURY GOSSETT, CO. I, 7TH INDIANA INFANTRY,
WRITTEN JULY, 1885**

[Owned in the 1960s by Mr. A. K. Houk, Jamestown, Indiana]

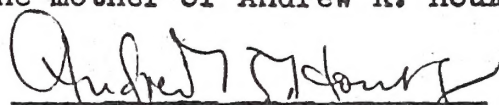
[Copied for the collection of the Allen County Public Library under the direction of
Fred J. Reynolds in the 1960s]

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
PO Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

ANDERSONVILLE
OR
FIFTEEN MONTHS IN REBEL PRISONS
written by
Thomas Asbury Gossett
July 1885

Thomas Asbury Gossett, a member of Co I--7th Regiment, Ind. Volunteers, was the son of Nathaniel Walton Gossett and Mary Greenfield Fox. He was grandson of John Gossett and Dorcas Clark. He was great grandson of Thomas Gossett and Sarah Walton, and also great grandson of of Samuel E. Clark and Rachel Brattian. His great great Grandfather was William Gossett. Samuel E. Clark was an officer in the Revolution and Thomas Gossett a private. The Gossetts were French hugenots driven from France in 1681. They first went to Germany, then England, and finally America. William Gossett went to Guilford Co. N. Car. from Botetourt Co. Va. His son Thomas was born there in 1748. Thomas's son John, was born July 21, 1778. John and Dorcas Gossett moved to Washington Twp. Hendricks Co. Indiana in the fall of 1833. One of their sons, Nathaniel, was the father of Thomas A. Gossett. Thomas A. Gossett married Nettie Maria Combs. Their children were Carrie, Louis, Everett, Orian, Omer, Pearl and Carl. Pearl was married to Andrew L. Houk and was the mother of Andrew K. Houk, the writer of this article.

August 28, 1962


Andrew K. Houk, Sr.

Note: For further information on Gossett genealogical line, see "The Johnsons and Their Kin of Randolph" by Jessie Owen Shaw, under "CLARK" pages 77-88 Ind. State Library 9929.2 2665 also see HOUK

ANNEXVILLE
OF
FIFTEEN MONTHS IN ARMY PRISON
WRITTEN BY
THOMAS J. GOSSETT
1917

Thomas J. Gossett, a member of the 1-7th Regiment, 1st
Volunteer, was the son of William Gossett and Mary
Greenfield Fox. He was grandson of John Gossett and James
Clark. He was great grandson of Thomas Gossett and John
Walton, and also great grandson of Samuel E. Clark and
Rachel Heston. His great great grandfather was William
Gossett. Samuel E. Clark was an officer in the Revolution
and Thomas Gossett a private. The Gossetts were French
immigrants driven from France in 1763. They first went to
Canada, then England, and finally America. William Gossett
went to Guilford Co. N. C. from England in 1763. His
son Thomas was born there in 1765. Thomas's son John, was born
July 21, 1798. John and Thomas Gossett were in Washington
two months after John's death in the fall of 1862. One of their
sons, E. Thomas, was the father of Thomas A. Gossett. Thomas
A. Gossett married Maria Maria Gibbs. Their children were
Gertie, Leslie, Everett, Orlan, Omer, Pearl and Carl. Carl was
married to Andrew L. Hunt and was the mother of Andrew L. Hunt,
the writer of this article.

August 26, 1917

Notes for further information on Gossett genealogy line and the Gossett
and Clark line of ancestry by family tree study, under 17-21
and State Library, 1917, also see XIX

INDIANA STATE LIBRARY

140 North Senate Avenue
INDIANAPOLIS, 46204

January 18, 1967

Mr. Fred Reynolds
Fort Wayne-Allen Co. Public Library
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

An error in page numbering, plus too missing pages have been found to exist in Manuscript Copying Project No. 45, Shipment No. 3.

The two missing pages are 3 and 18, both of which have been enclosed with this letter.

Page numbers to be changed in #45 are as follows, what has been marked as page 81 should be 80, 83 should be 81, 85 should be 82, 87 should be 83, 89-84, 91-85, 93-86, 95-87, 97-88, 99-89, 101-90, 103-91, 104-92, 102-93, 100-94, 98-95, 96 is correct, 94-97, 92-98, 90-99, 88-100, 86-101, 84-102, 82-103, 80-104, 78A-105.

Page 78A is probably to be found in your manuscript following page 77 (78 was missing). Page numbering 1-79, except for the missing page, are correct.

I'm sorry this has happen. If you have any questions please write me.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Krasean

Thomas Krasean
Field Representative
Indiana Division
Indiana State Library

caj

(1)

Charles Sumner or fifteen Northern Rebel Prisoners.
It is well enough that Providence has arranged that
we can not see our future. Should we see what is
in store for us we would waste our lives out. Especially
would this be the case with some natures. I am of such
a temperament that I am certain that it would be the
case with me. In childhood could I have seen my
future life, worry would have killed me, but not knowing
this & living in hope for something better I have been en-
abled to pull through to the present time. My life so
far has been spent in an age of important events,
my life has ^{fit for} been an eventful one. This is the case
with any man who served three years & over in one of
the greatest wars of modern times. Added to this
my experience in Southern prisons & my life as a
teacher I can truly say my life has been an ex-
traordinary one & God has continually directed me in
all I have done. To him will I ever ascribe the praise
for my protection in battle & while in prison.

The period in which I have lived has witnessed
some of the most important innovations & some of the
most ^{important} social events of modern times. Slavery, that gi-
gantic wrong has been entirely eliminated from our
civil system. ~~Slavery~~ ^{Slavery} now exists as

(2) From people from the Atlantic to the Pacific.
No age in the world's history has produced such
a great amount of invention as the present, and no
people have done more than the American people have
done. In all things they have fought to win & have
won. May they continue to advance in all that is
right, is the wish of every true citizen. Be he ever so
humble. It was my privilege to spend my happy boy-
hood days near that grand Quaker village Plainfield.
That community was noted for ^{its} intelligence,
love of good morals & especially for ^{the} hatred of
slavery. No citizens were more patriotic than my father's
neighbors in Washington. The children growing up
in such an air of patriotism & good morals were
bound to subscribe such ideas from their seniors. These
people so taught patriotism, that when the time came
in which the old flag needed to be defended, the boys
of Plainfield & vicinity enlisted almost to a man.
Some of her soldiers were in almost every en-
gagement from Bull Run to Appomattox. In political
times this vicinity was noted for the monster meetings
which they could get up for the party opposing the
extension of slavery. This question was agitated at al-
most every election for years. Lincoln was finally
elected on a platform opposed to the extension of sla-
very. The slogan of war was sounded by the South.
A simpler war line upon Lincoln called for

3000, nobly did the North respond. In less than
three days the call was filled. Numbers of young
men were too late to enlist. It was thought by them
that the war would be closed ere they had a chance
to take part in the affray. Now short sighted we all
were! Who at that time had peered into the future
& discerned the terrible carnage to be enacted in the
next four years. Who among the wisest had foreseen
a Bull Run, a Fredericksburg, an Antietam, a Gettysburg
or an Appomattox? Who could foretell the terrible battles
& scenes that would be enacted in the West from Don-
aldson to Sherman's March to the sea? The boast of
the South was that "one Southern soldier whip three
Yankees" & to the North "it was to be but a breakfast
spell." Now fearfully each side was mistaken - the
desperate fighting & terrible scenes enacted show us.
But the war went on, the Unionist gain a few im-
portant victories, the time of the three months
volunteers is nearly up. There was a demand by the
people of the North that the army should move on
Bears Ears position about Bull Run & close the war.
The attempt was made, a magnificent Army were
moved against this Rebel strong hold. The Union
army was defeated. The North awoke to the fact
that the contemplated breakfast spell would
stand beyond noon. Mr. Lincoln called for 300,000
troops in three years. We now have a chance to

We enlisted in with some of our schoolmates & old comrades. But little did we anticipate the length & cost of the war. Although we enlisted for three years we little dreamed of staying over a year. We recollect that after enlisting our captain congratulated us telling us that we would be back by next spring to plant corn, but many more springs came ere that sanguinary conflict ended. But events were passing swiftly. We had done much hard marching, had fought the battle of Winchester, the beautiful days of June, ¹⁸⁶² had rolled round. We found ourselves at Port Republic Va. The army was compelled to retreat in retreating I was run over by a cavalryman & so much hurt that I was unable to get away. I soon found myself in the hands of the rebels & being carried in an ambulance to Lee's Jackson's head quarters. Here I had a chance to see that celebrated general. I shall never forget his calm dignified look, his courtesy to me & kindness to his men. I was from here taken to the Central Va. R. R. & thence to Lynchburg Va. Here we were placed in the fair grounds, were furnished shelter & fair food though not enough. One day I found myself itching from some cause when on the removal of my clothes I found myself covered with body lice, then were the first I had ever seen. It then became a daily business with us to catch them pests.

5
The day after the battle in which I was taken prisoner -
brought about the second day's fight at Port Republic,
in this our troops under Shields were terribly defeated, &
a great number being killed & many wounded, a great
many of the latter being taken prisoner. Among the
was Thos. J. Coker who had seen one year service in
the 12th Indiana. He had been an old school mate at
Danville & when his one year was up, and he had
not seen a rebel, he concluded, before returning home,
to visit the 7th to see the boys & also to see if he would
not have the privilege of seeing a fight. In this ^{latter} he
was accommodated. He took a gun & went into
the midst of the affray, but was desperately wounded
& taken prisoner. After recovering enough to travel he
was sent to Lynchburg & placed in a tent with one.
I waited on him to the best of my ability & finally
saw him well. In this battle of Port Republic one
of the Ohio regiments lost its flag while marching
from the battle field to the R.R. on one night they
placed the captured men in an old barn & threw
the flag on the snow. Harry Fisk one of the boys of
the 7th tore the flag off the staff wound it around his
body & thus carried it to Lynchburg. The rebels made
diligent search but were unable to find it. Harry
made his escape from Lynchburg & carried the
flag back to its regiment. For his gallant conduct
in this, he was promoted to a lieutenant. Our stay
in Lynchburg was of short duration, nearly two months.

While here we were visited by Geo. Litcher & other dis-
senters. We were now removed to Belle Island, a small
island in the James & just above Richmond. Our food
& treatment were not near so good as they had been
at Lynchburg. Also the health here was poor, a great
many having the chronic diarrhoea. It was here that
Coffey & I conceived a plan for escape. There was a
strong guard around the camp at one point the
guard line ran near a fence with room enough
between them to make a good passage. This
was used by the rebels in passing from one part
of the island to another. Now we thought if we
could only get a rebel uniform we could slip out
between the guards & pass ourselves off for rebels.
Now the first thing to be done was to secure the uniform.
This we did by trading with rebels, piece at a time
until we had our outfit, or at least enough to dis-
guise us. We were now ready to make the attempt, the
evening is set, but just before the time for carry-
ing it into execution, they came & carried us
off. Here was the first time I ever recollect of
seeing the notorious Capt. King. He seemed to be bossing
or managing from Belle Island. Many poor boys
suffered terribly here from chronic diarrhoea, as they
were placed at such a great distance from our
camps. It would take a large history to record the
acts that have taken place on that small island.
But we are now leaving it never to be confined there!

As we pass off over the same bridge on which we entered the island, we pass through shanties to + then cross a Richmond. Here we are marched along Canal St. + by the celebrated Library, but we pay but slight attention to the city as we are on the road to freedom + at that time, we little dreamed of another visit to Richmond under such circumstances. While on Belle Island we had a chance to see Col. Michael Gencorran who had been captured at the first Bell Run. But we dignies; we are now marched S.E. of Richmond, where we are paraded at a point a little below Ft. Darling. We go aboard an U.S. transport + are off down the James. It is near night + we sit on the hurricane deck + view the grand scenery. This is all new to me, a new country, a new method of travel. When it began to grow dark, I noticed that the water sparkled brightly in the wake of the ship. This I was told was from phosphorescence. All that night I sat on deck viewing the water, scenery, etc. We are on historic ground, on the banks of this river near 250 years ago the first permanent English settlement is made. Near it where we now are the Chickahomani enters the James. On this stream John Smith was captured by the Indians. On this stream he was injured in a powder explosion, he then went to England for medical aid. We are now passing Jamestown, settled in 1607. What memories cluster around this place. But we will not stop to rehearse any of them. On we speed +

⑥ Our light finds us near Newport News. The names here, are suggestive, James river & James town are named after King James. Newport News was named from this circumstance. A few years after the settlement of Jamestown the colony became dissatisfied & concluded to abandon the place, they named their ships & sailed down the James but at this point a party of them saw Newport with ships & supplies from England, hence it got its name of Newport News. We now come to a large iron ship, the Galena, which shows the rough pounding she has lately received from Ft. Darling. A little farther on we pass the Monitor, this vessel which was to revolutionize the navies of the world little did she seem to be the monster she really was. Here is where the Congress & Cumberland went down, the only thing to remind us of them is the masts of one sticking above the water. Across towards Norfolk we see the Merrimack with steam up & watching our fleet. Along shore we see the white tents dotting the beach showing that our army is in force. To the south we view the Rip Rap now in course of construction. The foundation for the Ft. at this point is made of sunken rocks & the parties doing the work are persons who have been court martialed and sentenced to hard labor here. Our ship now rides on the waters of Hampton roads & we soon anchor in front of that fortress so conspicuous.

in the late war. It at that time was the strongest
fortress possessed by the U.S. Government + was a prize
which the rebels hoped to possess. At this point a man
who had been a prisoner + who seemed to be crazy climbed
to the top of the wheelhouse + jumped off into the sea. At
the time he had on a blue army overcoat + in his
great jump this spread out and gave him the appear-
ance of a huge eagle with its wings extended. The
cry, "a man overboard," was raised + quicker than it
takes me to write it a boat was manned + lowered
into the sea + shortly our spread eagle was aboard
with his feathers wet. Here for the first time we saw
those two monster guns, Lincoln + the Union, they were
placed in position on a sand bar in front of the fort.
At this time there were reckoned amongst the largest
guns in the world. The officer went ashore at the Ft.
to receive orders. Soon he returned, we weighed anchor
and were soon on our course up Chesapeake bay.
We sailed very rapidly as the ship was enabled to
use both sails + steam. The manner of weighing anchor
was new to me. The anchor is secured to the ship by
a huge chain, this is wound around a capstan,
in this capstan the sailors place levers, then to
a kind of he, ho, music, they begin to weigh an-
chor. Our course from Fortress Mifflin is along the
west shore of the Chesapeake until we enter the broad
mouth of the Potomac. Here we pass Pt. Look out, a place
at which the Union Army has in confinement a great

(10)

for of rebel prisoners. Up the beautiful Potomac we
sail. We reach Mt Vernon the home & burial place of Wash-
ington, we then pass Ft. Washington, the band plays us with
some of their best music, the boys are nearly all on the
hurricane deck & rush to the side next the Ft. when the
ship begins to corner, the ships captain orders us
to trim the ship immediately, which we do by about
one half going to the other side. We pass Alexandria,
which at this time is an important point, the harbor
is full of shipping. We go to Washington, we tie up
at the lower pier, all seems to be a bustle & a hurry.
Soldiers rushing hither & thither, Army trains continually
passing the long bridge. But here we remain for two or
three days, seemingly not noticed in the great hurry
and confusion of passing vessels. But finally we re-
ceive our orders. We are to sail to Ft. Delaware. Down the
Potomac we go past Alexandria, past Ft. Washington,
past Mt. Vernon. Near the mouth of the Potomac we run
a ground, here we are destined to lay for four days.
We are on a sand bar & are unable to get off for
four days. A tug is hitched on, another & another
& yet with all the efforts of these tugs & our own vessel
we are unable to move. Our rations are growing short,
the captain lowers a ladder from the ships side & tells
us to get off on the sand bar & hunt oysters. This
we do & find them in immense quantities. These are
the first oysters of any kind which we have ever tasted,
we relish them, & our appetite for them has never been

saturated. But the high tide comes & carries us off the bar.
We go. We halt at Ft. Monroe & receive visitors. Again
we weigh anchor & are soon passing the Capes of Va.
Now we are out on the broad Atlantic, the waves are run-
ning high, we are not used to such tossing, a number
become sea sick & hurry away to their bunks. The clouds
in the S. W. are growing dark, a storm is approaching,
the waves begin to roll fearfully, the storm bursts
in all its fury upon us. At this point some one
of the boys came to me & reported that my friend
Harry Brown was down in his bunk & about to
die. I went down to see Harry & found him suffering
terribly, I knew it was sea sickness. His first ex-
clamation was O. D. wish they'd would let me off &
let me walk. Seeing that we were now out of sight
of land the reader can see the ludicrousness of the
wish. A funny incident happened while we were
coming down the Potomac. Our bunks were arranged
in tiers, being three tiers of them, & two would sleep
in each bunk. One night after nearly all the men
had turned in & were soundly napping, two large
men from Co. C. of my own regiment & who occupied
the top bunk came in to go to bed. Just as they
had landed the slats gave way & down they came
with a crash, smashing the other bunks. For a
few minutes such a racket I have scarcely ever
heard. Some one yelled out that the ship
had struck a snag & was now sinking.

12
the men began to rush pell mell up stairs, expecting every moment to see the ship sink. The officer was notified that the ship had sprung a leak. He proceeded to investigate the matter when he found the exciting cause to be the great weight of the two members of Co. C. Some of us who were near & knew what was up did not move from our berths, but several hundreds were seized with ^{the} panic.

After the storm, daylight appeared & found us passing the capes of the Delaware. We sailed to the head of this beautiful bay & were landed at Ft. Delaware situated on Pea Patch Island. We now found good quarters & everything in readiness for us. The officers were kind the ^{men} garrison were kind & kind friends visited us daily. The ladies from Philadelphia, Wilmington New Castle & Delaware City set us a splendid dinner. We were regaled with fruits, oysters, & in fact all the delicacies of the land. We hear heard from home & friends. Our life here was a free & easy one, no duty to perform. We passed our time in wandering about over the island & inspecting the Ft. catching fish etc. In the old Colonial days the King of Sweden sent a ship load of provisions for his Colonists on the Delaware, this ship had on board a great quantity of pine. It was wrecked on this island & the pine were scattered over its surface, they came up in immense quantities, hence its name Pea Patch.

To while away the time some of the boys organized a theater. The Commandant allowed them passes from the island, they contracted to play at Salem & other points. 13
The time came for the performance at Salem, they went & gave a good entertainment, but alas a love for whiskey overcame their good sense, several of them became drunk, the leader went to bed & was suffocated, after this event no one could get a pass off the island. Ft. Dearborn as viewed from the sea is a magnificent structure, built of stone and provided with all the appliances of a first class fort. It is arranged for three tiers of guns, the parapet guns being 30 ft. from the ground. It is surrounded by a moat and drawbridge.

The heaviest gun in position when we were there was an 11 inch Columbiad. Numerous piles of 10 & 11 inch balls were piled up upon the parapets.

Also while we were at this Ft. a great number of rebel prisoners were confined here. We could not help contrasting their treatment with our treatment in the South. They had clothing & blankets issued to them, also they had the best of food & in fact everything was done for them that a prisoner of war could ask. We will never forget the kindness of Maj. Bastin the Commandant of the Ft. or of Lieut. Stahle the Commandant of our barracks. But the time of our free & easy life was drawing to a close.

We were ordered to Camp Parole Annapolis. We went aboard
a ship, crossed the Delaware to Delaware City, then we
entered the Delaware & Chesapeake Canal. When passing
④ through a lock, members of the boys would jump ¹⁴
off. It seemed their only desire in getting off was
to obtain whiskey, for this they would risk
their lives. But in passing the lock at Chesapeake
city capped the climax. This was the last lock
to our entering Black river. At this place one half
of the boys made a break for the shore. Soon they
took possession of the saloons, you could see
men carrying bottles, buckets & casks of whiskey
on board our vessel, for the Capt. had tied his
ship up to the wharf until he could get the
boys aboard. After awhile the boys were on board
the mayor of the town commanded the Capt. to
anchor his ship out in the river so the boys could
not get off. This he did & then pandemonium began.
bottles, stone coal, casks & buckets were hurled
through the air. I think fifty fights must have
taken place, several fell through the hatch way
and were crippled. We were below & took the pre-
caution to hide behind a gun wall from which
we viewed the scene. The night was very cold &
next morning found us firmly frozen in,
the Capt. telegraphed to Baltimore for a iron ship
to come & break the ice & thus release us from

our prison. During the day the vessel arrived plowing
a passage through the ice & soon we were on our way
down Black river into the beautiful Chesapeake. We
sailed up the Potomac past R. M. Henry & tied up
at a pier at Baltimore. Here we received orders to pro-
ceed to Annapolis, we landed at the pier in front of
the Naval Academy. Here we had the privilege
of viewing the grounds of our Navy Institution &
magnificent grounds they are. From here we were
marched through the city & to Camp Posee. Here
we remained a short time roaming over the
country, catching & eating oysters, gathering per-
simmons etc. But this free & easy life was to
cease. Soon we were ordered to join our regiment at
that time we camped on the Potomac near Pratt's
Point. We boarded a transport from the same pier at
which we had landed, we proceeded down Chesapeake
Bay and were delighted with the beautiful scenery through
which we passed. We saw numerous fishing smacks
off in cove & near the edge of the bay the white sails of
oyster boats covered the water. Immense numbers of
water fowl were seen at places. Kent Island was passed
we round Pt. Lookout & an anchor was afloat on
the beautiful of Potomac. Near evening we were landed
at Aquia Creek, from here we march in search
of our regiment, which we find near midnight.
We were overjoyed to see our comrades once more

Next day we receive our guns & accoutrements & are
once more a full fledged soldier. Most of the boys
who had been in prison with us were discharged on
account of disease contracted in prison. We take ⁽¹⁶⁾
part in all the duties of camp & march. "Burnside
Sticks in the mud" Chancellorsville, The Gettysburg
campaign, back to the Rappahannock & to the
Rapidan. Here on the 30th of Nov. 1863 I found myself
again in the hands of the rebels. We had been
watching Lee from the north bank of the Rapidan.
Meade finally concluded to advance and by a
flank movement compel him to abandon
his strong position, which he occupied along
the west bank of Mine Run. Several skirmishing for
two or three days forced Lee back through the vil-
lages & until he occupied his strong position
along the banks of Mine Run. Here on the 29th Meade's
Army stopped & began to entrench. Skirmishing
was going on between the two armies all the time. The
30th of Nov. dawned with clouds & a cold wind from the
N. W. Our Corps, the 1st, were lying along the east bank
of the Run & across the Orange & Fredericksburg road.
In front of us had been massed the heaviest ord-
nance of our army. There consisted of 32 & 64
pound Parrott guns with those of smaller caliber, a
portion of our regiment was on the skirmish line.
Here an incident happened which I shall now

Never forget. Between our skirmish line & that of the rebels lay a farm house, around which we could see pigs & poultry. The boys of Co. K. desired to possess some of them, so they organized a foraging party, and proceeded at once to an attack on the pigs & poultry, while some were running after chickens others made a dash for the pigs. The rebels viewed the scene as long as they could bear it, and seeing our boys beginning to possess some of the prizes they opened upon them at short range & one of Co. K. was killed & three or four wounded. This incident shows how reckless & fool hardy men will be even. We doubt whether if those wounded in the above skirmish could draw a pension as they were certainly not "in line of duty." But the time was at hand when Meade thought he would make ^{an} advance. A part of a regiment was sent to drive the rebel skirmishers away from Meier Run to the left of the main road some $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile, this failed, another & another regiment was sent, but they failed. So the left wing of the 7th Ind. was ordered to make the attempt. Under command of Maj. Walsh we were formed & started for the front. After leaving the woods in which we were placed to support the artillery, we had to cross an open field exposed to a galling fire from the massed rebel artillery. We were ordered to lie down, which we proceeded to do almost intuitively, the fire upon us was terrific, shot & shell flew thick

(18)

providence spring with which to slake our thirst.
I have no drink of that pure water, how pure & cool
it seemed to our parched lips, & so you would not
it seemed it providence spring. Indeed Providence
indeed had seen our need and had sent the water
pure & cool, direct from mother earth. Providence spring
was the talk of the camp. It was attributed to God himself
who had designed to save the lives of his children & it
he had of old when Moses led the children of Israel.

The person who makes a visit to the Anderson
Cemetery, now always visits Providence
spring & slakes his thirst at the fountain which
Providence created in 1864.

A few years ago Dr. D. D. D. sent me some
leaves from the shrubbery growing around our
spring. What sad & yet the same time what pleasant
memories they brought up. Sad because we thought
of the suffering our comrades & we had endured
near that spring, sad because of the many friends
we had to die in that prison, but pleasant because
we and so many of our friends had been per-
mitted to slake our thirst when so much in
need at that very spring which ~~had been~~ ^{had been} shaded
by its leaves.

The methods used to punish prisoners for small
offences were sometimes cruel in the extreme & certainly
to serve further the same committee. He has mentioned

of fast. Several fragments struck the boys, one struck
my knapsack & passed through its contents & into my
clothing. It seemed an age before our artillery began to
reply, but when it did it shook the earth, the rebels
were compelled, to change their fire from us to our
artillery, then pandemonium seemed to reign for a time.
After the fire ceased on us we were ordered to again ad-
vance, this we did in good style, we soon came in range
of the rebel skirmish line, we opened upon them & drove
them back across the stream, out of their first & second
line of breastworks, up through the thicket. Most of the
time we saw no enemy, as we were in a thick pine
woods or rather pine undergrowth, but we kept up a
continual fire, we began to wonder why they were so
easily driven, we stopped to consider, we were not long
in doubt, they opened fire upon our left flank, it was
now our turn to retreat, away we went back across the
second line & when we reached their first, the last
order we heard the gallant Maj. Walsh give was to
"hold this line at all hazards," we were in a thick
scrub pine woods & to the front & left could see only
a short ways, but to our left & now was a small
opening, through this we could see troops moving towards
us, my companion stated that they were our own men
coming to our assistance. His reasons for this con-
clusions were that they wore blue great coats. The
fire slackened in front of us, on the contrary, we kept

up a continual fire in our front, although we saw no one to shoot at, they are now right at us, we supposed we are to be relieved, but they order us to surrender, we remonstrate & tell them they are mistaken, that we belong to the Union Army, they know this & that is the reason they ask us to surrender, they are Gordon's brigade of Georgians, we surrender gracefully & our march towards Lee's head quarters. Up through the woods in front of our position we are marched, over the same ground which not an hour ago we had driven them back & over the same ground which a short time ago we had retreated. We noticed several dead & wounded as we passed. A Georgian desperately wounded & almost ready to die lay in our path, one of our guards noticed him a moment & saw that he was a brother, who belonged to a different regiment from himself. Our guards feelings were overcome, the man who had faced danger from Fair Oaks to Gettysburg, broke down at the sight of a dying brother, but such is war. Our captors moved us on allowing the man to remain with his dying brother. We soon reached the formidable intrenchments which Lee had thrown up & in which his army now lay waiting an attack from the Yankees. We wonder if our comrades will make the attempt, we doubt their ability to carry them, they are too strong. As we march through Lee's lines shot & shell

are flying thickly around us. Our artillery are
giving them a terrible scourging. We see several dead
men also many wounded & one cannon is disabled - 20
and several others injured. On we are taken to the
rear. Soon we arrive at Lee's head quarters. Here we have
our first view of that great chieftain. He is a grand
looking man, cool & calm & every inch a soldier.
But Oh! why did he prostitute those grand pow-
ers, to carry on war against the government which
had educated & honored him? It was that strange
hallucination, which placed loyalty to the State
before ^{loyalty} to the general government. We were here ques-
tioned by aids as to our intentions
of Meade. We answered that we knew nothing about
them, this would have been our answer had we
have known. Some of the boys were disposed to an-
swer tauntingly: "they will have you out of this
before tomorrow night." Good fences were built
for us & every courtesy shown us that we could
expect. Nothing had been taken from us but
our guns & accoutrements. We have often thought
of the kind treatment we received at the hands
of Lee's men, compared to that which we receive
afterwards. There men who had faced us on
many a fierce battle field, had a fellow
feeling when once an unfortunate fell into

their hands. To day I honor the men a great deal more highly, who faced us in battle, than those who remained in the rear & robbed & killed & starved us in their prison pens. History will record the brave Lee & his army great honor for their prowess & bravery, & will also honor them for courtesy & kindness shown to the men whom they captured in battle. But the stripes of men of ^{such men} Jeff Davis, Hindert, Mery are conspicuous examples, history will hold them as the lowest & most despicable of mankind, they are human butchers directly or indirectly. The night we remained at Lee's headquarters, was spent in social chat with our guards, jokes were given & taken, songs were sung, trades were made, stories of the war were told etc. & all passed off pleasantly. I had had the misfortune to jump into Mine Run & was thus wet to my waist, so the fire was a pleasant place for me & I shall ever thank those guards for building me one. Next morning we were started for Orange Court house, here we were placed under the care of a provost guard whom we supposed to be pets & composed of the F. F. V. as they called them selves, they seemed to be above the common mind sets of society, yet we do not complain of their mistreating us, only they were not so sociable like our captors. As some of our readers may

not know the meaning of the abbreviation
F.F.V's. I will give them the Virginia version & also
the Yankee version. The Virginians say they stand
for First Families of Virginia, the Yankees say²²
they stand for Fleet Footed Virginians. The
reader can choose his own definition. On arriv-
ing at Orange Court House we were soon sur-
rounded by the populace both male & female, the
latter greatly in the majority, where we were
subject to a fire & cross fire of questioning,
the ladies led out, & plied us with questions
and abuse until we were truly glad when they
let up. Some of these women were the bitterest
rebels I have ever met. Almost every one when
commencing a conversation had to explain;
why did all youms come down here to fight
or run & free wrong niggers. But finally this
tornado of feminine wrath & interrogators ceased,
& a venerable, gray headed man came forward
as spokesman, his comrades denominated him
by the title of Judge. He wanted to know if any
of youms are from Indiana. Quite a number
of us answered in the affirmative when he
said "you ought to be ashamed to come down
here to fight wrongs" for did you not know that
wrongs gave youms Indiana. He then praised the cause
of D. H. Vorhees & said Dan was a true patriot.

It is a strange what love those Virginians had for Dan during the war, but he is a fascinating man & I now confess that the men who hated Dan twenty years ago, now find a true friend in him. I think he has seen the error of his way & now wishes to make amends by legislating for the ²³ very men whom he so abused during the war.

When near Winchester we were visited by a Virginian who made a special trip to inquire about the Tall Sycamores of the Nabosh. He told us about the trial of Cook, one of the John Brown conspirators, & who was defended by Daniel W. Torhies. He said he never heard ^{such an} eloquent address as that delivered by Daniel on that occasion. He also stated that he wanted to see & hear Daniel once more before he died. Some of the boys laughingly replied that Daniel had promised to be in the valley with an army to help the Confederates & then he would have a chance to see him. But we are digressing, our interrogator made a regular set argument in favor of secession, but we concluded after hearing all that we were right, the Judge & Dan Torhies to the contrary notwithstanding. Soon we were aboard a train on the Orange & Alexandria R.R. & were on our way to Gordonsville. Here we went through a regular inspection for securing any articles we might possess that would be beneficial to the rebels. We were relieved of our knapacks, haversacks

great coats, extra clothing etc. Our canteens were left us. Again we are aboard a train bound for Richmond. To reach Richmond was the ambition of every soldier of the Army of the Potomac, but not by the route we were taking. He passed many places which are now historical. While en route our car was under the command of a rebel's sergeant, who made himself useful as well as ornamental. I mean useful to himself. He told the boys that all green backs, gold + silver which they might possess would be taken from them on their arrival at the Rebel Capital, but they would be allowed to retain any Confederate money they might possess, so he proposed to exchange with them giving dollar for dollar a few of the boys thought this good enough + exchanged with him. Finally he began to come up + offered \$10 for \$1 in green backs. Many portions, Sanders, thought this a big trade so made the exchange + advised me to do the same, but I concluded to wait + was finally rewarded while in Richmond with \$40 for \$1. If the sergeant had told us the truth we must have found some way to secure our money. Many were the plans adopted to accomplish this end. Some thought a canteen just the place in which to store their money for this argued as they had been left to them at Gundersville they would retain

them at Richmond, one man took off the cap of his brass buttons doubled up a bill & would then put the cap on again. He thus saved his money.

I put my money in the lining of my hat. When hat was gone & I argued to myself that they ²⁵ would not take it. In this I was right. We arrived in Richmond, alighted from our train & were marched through the city, soon we were halted in front of a large brick building, the sign, Libby & Son Ship Chandlers, told us we were now at the famous Libby prison. We were ordered to march in, then we are ordered to throw our canteens in a corner. Then we were told that we must give up all gold, silver & green back, but we could retain any Confederate money we might possess, we were told that to all of those who gave up their money the Confederate government would give notes payable on the recognition of the independence of the Confederate states. Some of those who had hidden their money in canteens now thought they saw a chance to regain it in the future so notified the Confederates & were allowed to get their money & turn it over. To any one who refused to give up money, it should be found on him said money would be confiscated. After these preliminaries & after all had professed to give up money they then began a search for money on any

article which were contraband of war. Although the search seemed to be complete, yet a great many articles, such as knives, revolvers etc. were smuggled through. We were requested to exchange ^{of our} some clothing for that which was not so good. ²⁶ My shoes being a little above par were exchanged for a pair not so good, for you know now I was to be housed & not required to march & some poor Confederates who had not these privileges needed my shoes. We were then marched across the street to Castle Pemberton or the Crews building. This was an old tobacco warehouse & consisted of a basement & four stories. The door was opened & we were ushered in, but what a stink greeted our nostrils. I can only compare it to the smell of wild animals when placed in confinement. You have visited some zoological garden or some animal show, if you have & noticed the odor arising from them, then you are prepared to understand the kind of odor which greeted our olfactories as we entered the crews building. In a few days the unpleasant sensation left us, I suppose it was because we are now one of the animals. As soon as entering the building we are greeted with the cry of fresh fish! fresh fish! but we soon learn that this is applied to

us fresh arrivals & not to the kind of food we need at present in our castle. We were conducted to the 3rd floor & given a front berth, what we mean by front berth, we were allowed room in the front of the building & on ²⁷ Canal St. Why the older prisoners kept for their back & allowed us to occupy such a prominent place as the front, we at this time did not understand, but supposed it contrary on their part. Night came on & we prepared to take our first sleep in Richmond. A tier of men formed with their heads towards the wall & extending all around the building, two other tiers were formed in the center of the building, with their heads together. Thus arranged the feet of the men formed a continuous aisle around the building. A law among the prisoners was that each man should keep whatever personal effects he had in the place allotted him to sleep. When the men were arranged at night they were as closely arranged as sardines in a box. Our sleep was not sound & sweet, we were thinking of home & friends. We were also wondering how our comrades were faring around Mine Run. Another torment we could face that old enemy "gray backs" straining our

us, hunting a good place on our anatomy
to lay us for blood. We awoke + the first thing
we did was to examine our clothes for those
prison pests. They had took possession to stay,
they had lived or rather were living, the same^{as}
of our pants with their eggs. We found the older
prisoners terribly infested with them + with-
out means of getting rid of them, for know
you thus had no means of changing clothing,
+ no good means of cleaning what they had.
So morning, noon + night clothing was re-
moved + we proceeded to hunt + demolish these
pests. Any prisoner who neglected this daily
exercise was compelled by comrades to take
it up. Before rations were issued we enquired
of an old inmate why they allowed our squad
to occupy ~~such~~ such a conspicuous place?
Why they did not take + keep possession them-
selves? He said it was because the boys
were so mischievous. "The orders to the guard
were to fire at any one who might poke
his head out at the window." Why? says I to
him "the boys are not mischievous enough
to poke their heads out when they know
such orders are issued to the guards?" No says
he "but these mischievous boys put a blouse
+ a hat on a broomstick + poke that out at

the window, when bang goes a musket & back comes the blow & hat! Then stray bullets often pass through the window & strike in the floor on which you lie or may be ^{through} the window near which you lie & in the floor above you! He then pointed to two bullets in the floor above to prove his assertion. He found some of the boys were ready for this joke on the guard & then knew why they gave us fresh fish on front berth. Rations of corn bread & bacon were issued to us & we partook of our first grub in Hotel De Penitence. He now commenced to get acquainted with our new comrades & fellow prisoners. Some of these were rather hard as the word denominates ~~them~~ ^{hardly}, they were uncouth in manners, cared little about keeping themselves clean, cared little for the feelings of others, yet the great majority of these men, were men of intelligence & refinement & had carried their manners with them into prison. Some of them were out of the very first families in the North, when overthrown by war & influence.

He had here graduates of the best institutions in our land, two were graduates of distinguished institutions in the old world. Some of these men had traveled in almost every part of the globe. Here were ministers of the gospel, lawyers, doctors, & in fact almost every profession & industry were represented.

Some were gifted with story telling & then could always control a good audience when they were in a story telling mood. The tales told of the sea, of hunting, of travels etc. would fill volumes. Some of these stories were so pathetic that they would bring tears to the eyes, others so funny that they would be greeted by peal after peal of laughter. One man, a noted character among us, told us the story of his life which was as interesting as any fairy tale.

I will in brief give it to you. He said that years ago when he was a small lad he sailed in his father's ship to the South Sea. Sailing among some of the islands of that sea his father's ship was wrecked, some perished in the sea, while others were made prisoners by the inhabitants of the island, these proved ^{inhabitants} to be cannibals. This little boy was to be adopted while the others were to be eaten.

He was tattooed in the best style of the island ^{aborigines} from head to foot, his face being tattooed in the most grotesque style of these cannibals.

In doing this he said the pain was excruciating. But the thing which he remembered with the most horror was the killing & eating of these cannibals of his father. In fact all the crew of that vessel escaping the mad roars of the sea ^{men} was killed & eaten by these savages.

Another a venerable Baptist preacher from

East Tennessee told us the story of his treatment by
the rebels. His story, which I believe has been published,
was almost as horrible as our sailor friend told
about his cannibals. One man had been an actor
+ would quote from Shakespeare for an hour ³¹
at a time, but his great forte seemed to be tragedy
+ some of his quotations + actions would make the
blood run cold through our veins. Although he
excelled in tragedy, his comedies were good + he
would at times keep us in an uproar of laughter.
We too had medical men who gave us lectures on
surgery + medicine, while this last was a dry
subject yet it was one which well repaid our
close attention. We had a Scotchman with us who
was a graduate of ^{the} medical department of the
University of Edinburgh, we looked to him as an
authority on any disease which made its appear-
ance among us. Some too had studied law +
would give us dissertations on Blackstone + other
celebrated jurists. Our Drs. Lawyers, Scientists had
to depend upon memory, but our ministers had
the Bible + Testament ever ready to make quotations
from. I think in fact I never saw men study
more diligently the New Testament than the
prisoners confined here. Most of us had Testaments.
I had one given to me by the agent of the
Christian Commission, which I read daily, in

in which I found much consolation. This Testament I carried with me all through Andersonville & still retain to this day, & I expect to hand it down to my children as a keepsake. These talks & readings etc. had a good effect, they kept down ~~unrest~~ ³² to a certain extent. History, politics, religion, science, literature & in fact almost every branch of learning was discussed by these prisoners. Some of the best ideas I ever obtained were right here in prison. The memory was trained by these efforts in calling up. We were cut off from all books except the Bible. We bought papers from some of the guards, yet this was not allowed.

Jeff Davis & John Morgan were announced to pay us a visit. So we had arranged to form in two lines & greet them with 'fresh fish! fresh fish!' but they did not come into the prison but contented themselves with a view of us from the outside. Davis was a medium sized man, rather sharp features, neatly dressed, wore blind in one eye, wore a ^{sturdy} gaiter & had hair of the same color. John Morgan was tall & straight, dark eyes, wore a black mustache & had raven black hair, which he wore long. I formed a more favorable opinion of the great raider than I did of the great traitor. Morgan was the hero of the hour in Richmond. He had

been confined in the Ohio penitentiary + had escaped from the same. Such a feat had made him a hero all over the south. He was now the guest of Jeff. Davis + was expected to install into the Confederate government at Richmond some of his indomitable will.

During the time we were confined here the Famous Libby Tunnel was constructed, by which a great many officers escaped from that celebrated prison. The gallant Col. Straight of the 51st Ind was among the lucky number to get away. Col. Rose seems to have planned the tunnel. The tunnel ended in a lot just across the St. + in front of the building in which we were confined. This escape caused great excitement in Richmond. I will here give Col. Rose account of the construction of the Tunnel + Col. Straight's account of his escape.

One day we greeted a fresh batch of prisoners with our common salutation of "fresh fish! fresh fish!" we questioned them as to their state + company they informed us that they belonged to an Illinois Cavalry regiment, the 16th I believe. Among the number, I noticed a neat looking soldier, of slim build, dark eyes, dark hair. He seemed to be very inquisitive about everything he saw + heard, was a rampant Union man + upon

inquiry I learned his name was
John McElroy
the future historian of Andersonville. John became
a favorite with the prisoners, but was ever ready³⁴
to defend his political opinions. John Russell of Co. K
of my regiment was a pronounced democrat &
many were the tilts between him & McElroy.
Poor Russell died at Andersonville.

We had not been long in Richmond when
the Small Pox
broke out. Quite a number took them at almost
the same time & we thought they were communica-
ted by clothing which the prisoners had to take
in exchange for our clothing at Libby. We do not
know this to be true but everything looked
that way. I have always had a dread of
small pox, yet at this time I wished I could
have a slight attack. I had no desire to have
a severe case, yet I wanted the varioloid. My
reason was this. I had learned that the pest
house was situated ^{in a fort} outside of the intrenchments
of Richmond & also beyond the picket line. Now
I thought if I could only get out & then get
strong enough to travel I would have a good
chance to get away. But my wish was not ful-
filled. Although my right hand man had the
disease I escaped. The Drs. came to the rescue

+ vaccinated all who had not been vaccinated or who had been vaccinated too long, but the ^{if true} result proved to be worse than the disease. A great many who were vaccinated had to have their arms amputated, whether this was on account of bad virus, bad blood or both I do not know. My arm was very sore, but I suppose but little worse than if I had been at home. My system at this time had not been so poisoned as it was a few months afterward, or I would probably have suffered the loss of an arm & maybe in my life.

The basement I have mentioned was a source of annoyance to us as long as it was unexplored. Yankee ingenuity & prying must overcome any obstacle between the 2^d floor & the basement. So a hole was cut in the floor in the west side of the building, a plank neatly fitted to the hole & generally a blanket carefully thrown over this. By this opening a few Yankees were admitted at a time to explore this basement. It was found to contain hogsheds, a great many of which were filled with bran, pieces of hump hoots etc. The bran served a good purpose, if this we made a bran mush. Each day, almost, my partner or I would descend secure about one quart of this bran

Cook it over a gas jet & thus have bran mush. This cooked without salt was not very palatable yet served as filling. Another use we made of this cellar was to tunnel from it to a sewer running³⁶ down high street & thus escape by way of the Canal, But after considerable work this plan was abandoned.

New Years 1864 was said to be the coldest day in Richmond for one hundred years, yet during the whole day we had no fire, in fact we had none during the whole winter & when such severe weather came we had to put on all our clothing & pace the floor from morning to night to keep warm. All the fire we had while in Richmond was that furnished by the gas jets. The extremely cold weather & the exercise we had to take to keep warm gave us ravenous appetites, but we had nothing extra to appease that hunger, except our bran mush. Hunger & cold produced disease which carried off many & sowed disease which ripened rapidly at Andersonville. Here we were right where Jeff Davis could see & know our wants, when he had the means to supply them, but he did not make use of that means. He saw & knew of the fearful sufferings of Union prisoners on Belle Island & in Richmond & yet he made

no effort to appear that suffering. How can
any man who suffered in these rebel hells
have any other than a loathing & hatred for
Davis & his minions who carried out his orders. ³⁷

When we first entered Richmond we had daily
news of exchange, we thought our stay would be
short, but alas we found these rumors to be mere
grape vine dispatches, without foundation in
fact. Some poor soul who had studied over
exchange until he had become deranged on
that subject, would imagine there was news
of exchange, he would tell it to some of his friends
with all the fervor of one who believes what
he tells & shortly the news would be all over
the building & men shouting to one another
the good news of exchange. A hundred times
was this repeated here & at Andersonville only
to be in a short hour or two found false, yet
we were like drowning men catching at
straws. At each repeated assertion we only
hoped the report true.

At our first confinement on Belle Island
the rebels had tested their new ordinance at
the Dragoon iron works, now they had charged
down the river just below Manchester. We were
told that Gen. Scott had owned a farm at this
point ^{and} that the Confederate government had

Confiscated it and now used it as a target ground. Richmond is a picturesque city, situated, as the geographies tell us, at the head of ship³⁸ navigation, but this is not strictly true, as vessels ascending to Richmond have to pass through a ship canal, this canal lies between us & the river which was not more than a 8 square away & in plain view. The cold weather in December had frozen over the canal & each day when the weather would permit, the boys & girls ^{of Richmond} would congregate on the ice on the canal in just in front of our prison, here for hours they would enjoy the pleasure & sport of skating. This was kept up until the rains & sun had caused the ice to be rotten. But a few venturesome boys would still cling to their sport. One day about the 1st of Feb. 1864 a dozen boys had met, we presumed to have a lost skate for the season on the ice, all went well for some time & they seemed to be enjoying themselves well. A no.

Of us who were cooped up were wishing ourselves boys again & free to enjoy ourselves as those boys. We watched their sports & heard their merry laugh. But all at once & without warning the ice gave way & precipitated most of them into the waters of the canal. We could see them sink, hear them call for help, some five or

six escaped, but as many were drawn under the ice + drowned. Some of the escaped ones flew away to notify the parents of the drowned boys. Soon we saw women come rushing on the scene wringing their hands + crying for help. one poor woman tried to throw herself into the water but was prevented by some rebel soldiers who stood near. What a change + in so short a time, from the merriest group in sight to the saddest one imaginable. I stated that Richmond was picturesquely situated. The falls are just above the city + situated on each side of Belli Island. Here the water rushes through + over rocks with a never ceasing roar. These falls furnish a never failing water power, also from these falls the city is furnished with an excellent supply of water.

Tide water rises just to the lower part of the city but is not deep enough for vessels to ascend. Here the pure fresh water from the mountains meet the salt water from the sea. Every thing conspires to make this city healthy + beautiful. No wonder that even savages like Powhattan saw beauty + utility combined in this site + made use of it. We have our doubts whether this ^{fine} savage ~~more treated~~ his captives with more severity, than the

Chief who now holds sway over this beautiful city. Probably Powhatan killed his prisoners outright but Davis kills ^{them} by inches. In 1862 Lincoln issued a proclamation to all Confederates to lay down their arms & come back into the Union & the institution of slavery would not be interfered with where it then existed but if they would not do this in 100 days, or on the 1st of Jan. 1863 he would issue a proclamation freeing all slaves in rebellious states. Lee wished to surrender his army under this proclamation, but Davis would not let him, telling him that numbers of citizens had already lost their slaves & it would not be right to abandon the cause now. So Lee fought on, we may conclude hopelessly, & each ^{terrible} man slain in battle or starved in prison we may attribute directly to Davis. We are indebted to Capt. Patterson of Lee's staff, for the above facts.

At this time Jan. 1864, ^{Gen.} B. F. Butler was the Commissioner on the part of the U. S. to conduct the exchange of prisoners & Col. Q. A. R. was the Confederate Commissioner. Our government had organized negro regiments, some of these negroes had been captured in battle. Our government demanded an exchange of all prisoners without reference to color or previous condition of

servitude, but the Confederates were willing to exchange white men but were not willing to give up colored soldiers. So here the exchange ⁴¹ stopped. In taking this stand the Confederate government believed they would have the support of a majority in the North & especially would the Northern Army take the matter up & demand an exchange on the basis offered by them. But in this they were mistaken, the people of the North & the soldiers in her armies demanded the same treatment for all soldiers. And although we were compelled to remain months longer & suffer as we were suffering for a principal of which we will ever feel proud. This stand taken by Davis and his friends the U. S. government greatly enraged Davis & his minions & he resolved to bring our government & people to time. It was not enough that he had starved & maimed our prisoners for life but his idea was now to starve to death hundreds & maim the remainder for life. How will he succeed the history of rebel prisons from this on will show. Davis detailed Winder to proceed to the South & select a camp among the swamps of the South where the Yankee prisoners would be easier cared for. He went & soon returned with the news that he had



selected a camp in Georgia 65 miles south of Macon. The rebel papers commenting on this said: "Gen. Winder had selected a camp among the pestilential swamps of the South where the Yankees would die off like sheep with the rot." Also that "The Yankee government has had fair warning, if they still persist in the stand they have taken the Confederate government can wash its hands of all blame in the matter. If the white people of the North wish their fathers, brothers & sons to die for a few negroes, the blame should rest with them." This was a gloomy prospect indeed, to be cooked up in Richmond longer was bad enough, but to be cooked up among the pestilential swamps of Ga. was a horror to contemplate. We might say now that all hope of exchange died within us. A gloomy foreboding filled many minds & to add to our troubles the papers announced that our government was going to retaliate for some offense, I believe the Ft Pillow massacre, & that the Confederates were going to select men from our prison to be held as hostages for their men, to be executed in case their men were. We reasoned "if this should come when will it end?" This latter calamity we were not to suffer. While in this

prison I wrote a letter to my Capt. which was published in the Indianapolis Journal, but we were not permitted during our stay in the Confederacy

to receive a letter from home or friends. 43

While in Richmond we were organized into messes, when leaving our mess consisted of nineteen men, seventeen of them died at Andersonville. February had rolled around and we were now to leave Richmond, we were drawn up in a line our names taken & about the 15th day of Feb. 1864 we left the city of Richmond for the far Sunny South. We marched across to Manchester & took a train for Petersburg. We here saw some of the preparations made by these Confederates for the reception of the Yankees. Petersburg at that time was a bustling town, made so we suppose by its nearness to the seat of war. But we stopped only for a short time, on, on, we sped over the Weldon R.R. to Yorktown N.C. Here our Va. guards gave place to N.C. state troops, by these we were conducted to Raleigh where we were corralled west of the city during the night. We were furnished food & a good place in which to bathe & clean our clothing. Also we had good fires by which to warm. We found our guards to be good, whole souled fellows & only wished

that our journey south might terminate here.
& then genial guards be our watchers from this
on. We found several of the guards to be from
Guilford Co. N.C. the very Co. in which my father⁴⁴
was born. We asked them many questions about
Kunfolks of whom we had heard our father
talk. Some of these guards avowed themselves
Union men & longed for that day when they
might desert & once more be under the old
flag. Here we were camped near a large quan-
tity of cotton more in fact than I ever saw
before or have ever seen since. This had
been placed here, so we were told, as a kind of
security to Great Britain for money loaned.
What became of it I never knew. But our
jolly good time was drawing to a close. We were
ordered aboard a train & on we sped in a S.W.
course through the state. In the night we
pass Greensboro, near here was where our
father was born & near here I had numerous
relatives, some of these were union people I
knew. If I could only make my escape &
find them I would be safe, so I thought. On
past deep river we fly. We give our selves up
to sleep. A terrible crash awakes us, what
is the matter each was exclaiming, we
hear the groans of wounded men, the front end

of our car is smashed in, the two cars in front
of us entirely demolished. We finally learn the
cause, a switch has been left open & caused the
terrible calamity. We are ordered off the train^{4.5}
and parolled near the R.R. track. In the morn-
ing we find ourselves in a beautiful little
village, well set with shade trees, the houses neatly
painted. This neat village is Thomasville N.C.
Just at the beginning of the war a cousin to my
father had left this very place for fear of being
conscripted into the rebel army. He had told us
that here & near here were many Union men
but that they dare not utter their sentiments.
We thought now possibly here is a chance
to escape. As soon as the news spread that
a train load of Yankee prisoners had been
wrecked here people from the surrounding country
came to see us. Men women & children, on horseback
& in wagons came to see the wonderful Yankees.
They pried us with many questions & from many
of these divined that our interrogators were Union
men, in fact we believe if a vote had been
taken then & there allowing antiyers & Confederate
soldiers to vote, that vote would have been in favor
of the old Union, but they were surrounded by
rabid secessionists & Confederate armies who
would not allow them to speak & act as

they wished. But while here we were allowed to visit the wells of the town to procure water to drink & with which to cook our food, one guard accompanied ⁴⁶ two men. Now my partner & myself conceived the idea of getting some guard whom we thought we could trust to go with us & then let the guard be talked to and bribed if necessary to let us go. We tried it but our guard proved to be a rank rebel & we dare not broach the subject to him. Again we return to camp, nothing done.

We now form an other plan, if we can make arrangements with the guard all well & good if not we resolve to attack him take away his arms, cut loose a horse a piece which we find hitched to the rack near & thus make our escape. Our guard this time was sullen & would not talk & would not let us come near him, we were drinking & filling our cups with water & Nick was talking to me in a low tone that he would spring upon the guard & we would kill him but I was just demonstrating showing Nick the danger we would run by such a course, when three or four rebel soldiers entered the enclosure & we were ordered to camp. We were watched & not allowed again to go for water. Our actions or words had betrayed us. But finally

the time came for us to depart. A new train was brought up + we ordered aboard, this was late in the evening. We now took a S. W. direction again. Nick + I could not give up the idea of escaping. A new plan was formed, we would cut a hole in the end of the car + crawl out on the bumper - just as the train began to move after a stoppage we would jump off. The guard was on top of the box car we were in + the plan looked feasible, yet we had not well considered the lighting at a strange place on a dark night. But we were bound to make the attempt. So when the shades of night came on we began to execute our plan. By means of a can knife we were soon able to cut a hole through the pine boards, but the guard must have heard our noise + informed the Officer in Command for when we stopped he came along with a light + discovered our work. ^{ordered us to lie down + then} He placed a light + a guard inside of our car with orders to shoot any man who should raise his head before day light. Again our plans were frustrated + we compelled to undergo the tortures of lying down in that crowded car.

This night we passed through Salisbury where many of our prisoners were kept during the war. Next evening find us at Charlotte N.C.

here we are ordered off the train & into camp. Around this city we found the ^{most} ~~most~~ fertile soil we had seen since leaving the Valley of Va.

It looked home like, ⁴⁸ nature was putting on her green. But we saw little of the people of the city, but we understood them to be rabid secessionist & not at all like their brethren farther north.

Next day we board a train & are on our way to the Palmetto state. At or near the line dividing the two our car wheel guard is relieved by a regiment of fire eaters. We pass through Nimesboro a beautiful, here the darker women offered us the best of pies for only \$1 each. Corn pone & loaves of wheat bread \$1 each. Even in Richmond this was the ruling price. Think of it such loaves as we pay a nickel for in the North selling for \$1 each. But when I tell you that just before leaving Richmond I traded five dollars in green backs for two hundred in Confederate money, you can see that they were not so high after all. In our money I could get forty loaves for one dollar. On we speed & are soon in the Capital of S. C. Here we halt but a short time & are on our way to Branchville through which we pass & are off for Hamburg. From Hamburg we are taken across the river to Augusta where we remain.

during the night. Our S. C. guards are now
relieved by a regiment from Ga. Augusta
at the time we were there was the most beautiful
town or rather city we saw in the South, but
the inhabitants were intensely rebel.

But morning finds us again on the road
to our new prison, we pass Milledgeville, over the Oconee
& Ocmulgee, at the latter is the beautiful little city
of Macon. Fifty five miles farther & our journey is
ended. In this trip through Georgia we have passed
through innumerable swamps some of them miles
in extent. These are the pestilential swamps of the
South among which the Yankees are to die off
like sheep with the rot. At night on Feb. 23rd 1864
we arrive at Andersonville, it is night & we are
unable to see but a house or two but are not
very much startled with the prospect before us.

In fact ever since reading in the rebel papers
that the Yankees would "die off like sheep with
the rot" we had dim forebodings of what was
in store for us. We were now to soon realize
that rebel prophecy in all its horrors, the day
was near at hand when that prophecy was to be lit-
erally fulfilled. Morning dawned & we at once took
in the situation. To the east we could see an op-
ening in the pine forest enclosed by a new fence;
soon we were marching towards it & in a short time

We found ourselves in the now celebrated Andersonville Stockade. We will now stop & give the reader some idea of the Geography & topography of the country. Andersonville is a small station on the railroad leading from Macon to Albany Ga. & about sixty five miles south of the former city. It is situated in Sumpter Co. & about ten miles north of Americus the Co. seat.

To the north about the same distance is Oglethorpe a prosperous town. Flint River lies to the east about three miles, its course is S. W. when it finally unites with the Chatahochee & thus forms the Apalachicola, which then flows into the gulf of Mexico. The whole region south of Macon is a low sandy plain, interspersed with innumerable swamps, these latter often being impassable & inhabited by numerous Alligators. Such was the situation & general character of the country.

Formed by nature to be easily guarded also nature's construction had made it very unhealthy especially to people not acclimated to the place.

The dryer portions of the country was covered with pine forest interspersed with live oak from these trees the long gray moss (Spanish moss) hung in graceful festoons. The swamps were thickly studded with cypress & such small evergreen shrubbery as these swamps produce.

These cypresses to our unaccustomed with tropical

low lands presented a quaint appearance, with their swelled butts, which extended some 8 or 10 feet from the ground, from which point they were very smooth & straight sometimes for a great many feet. The live oaks & gray oaks were features unique & pleasing to us, this moss was gathered, when possible, for use in beds, & was indeed the best material we found in the south for such purposes. No part of our country could surpass this part of Ga. for its tall, graceful, long leaf pines. These pines were very tall & straight without a limb until you near the top where they were crowned with a beautiful tuft of green. These pines were known as the pitch pine, the lumber of which is very durable & has within the last few years become almost as valuable as walnut. Very few deciduous trees were found in this part of Ga. In strolling over our camp we found numerous pine knots, the whole tree of which they once having formed a part having decayed but on account of the resinous matter contained in these knots, they would almost last forever. These knots we used to burn during Feb. & March, they gave out considerable heat with a very black smoke which ^{one was} when once thoroughly covered was very difficult to get rid

of in fact we never got rid of it as long as we
remained at Andersonville. When we would attempt
to wash it off it seemed to be greasy & we only
mixed it well with the dirt we had accumulated
& then smeared it over our faces. We thus ⁵² be-
came almost as black as the colored
race & had we have been set down in Indi-
anapolis our most intimate friends would
not have known us & the people would have
taken us for some roving band of Gypsies or
Indians. The form of the stockade ~~was~~ that of
a rectangle, the sides being about twice the length
of the ends. At first it included about 12 acres
afterwards was extended to the north including
about six acres more, the length of the sides then
being about three times that of the ends. This
ground was divided into two unequal parts by
a small stream of water running through it
from ~~west~~ ^{west} to east, the smaller & lower part lay
in the south end while the higher & larger lay
in the north. Near the small stream was a bog
covering about three acres, this bog consisted
of black muck, while the other portions consisted
of red clay & sand. Taking out the space between
the dead line & stockade & also excluding the bog
& stream would leave less than eight acres of
ground on which at one time we were confined.

over 30,000 prisoners, or nearly 4,000 men to each
acre of ground. This would allow about 11 square feet
to each man if I had drawn my conclusions cor-
rectly. The stockade was made of hewn pine logs
a trench was dug six feet in depth, these logs
were got out twenty feet in length, these ⁵³ logs
were placed in the ground & sixteen feet above
ground, these were set very close together & thus
made a continuous wall, at first these men
failed to fasten these together in any way &
thus the men yankees made use of this omission
to attempt an escape, this attempt I will describe
for this on I remedy this omission; they spiked
a scantling on the outside of the stockade around
its entire length, this thus tied them all together
in such away that it was impossible to move
one out of place without moving all. When I
first entered Andersonville, Feb. 23rd 1865, I only that
portion of the stockade north of the stream & bog
was completed, they were at work on the south end
& soon had it enclosed, to do this work they em-
ployed a great many colored men. At first they
drove stakes at short distances from each other
& about twenty feet from the stockade, at the same
time a guard was stationed during the day time
on the inside & at each angle of the stockade. It
was the duty of this guard to arrest any prisoner

who might cross to the space between the stockade
+ their stakes. A patrol came around at each hour
to collect + punish criminals who may have com-
mitted the heinous offense of invading this forbidden
territory. The punishment was back-^{ing} + gagging or
hanging up by the thumbs. My especial friend,
David Sanders, + a member of my own Co. saw a piece
of pine wood which he wished to possess, lying
near the stockade. He crossed the forbidden ground
+ was in the act of taking possession of it when
the guard spied him + ordered him to halt. The
patrol were called. Sanders was taken near the
South gate buckled + gaged. He was placed on the
sand in a sitting position, but the heat + pain
so overcame him that he fell over on his side in
which position he was left for half a day. None
of us dare remonstrate for fear of meeting the
same fate. Up to this time Sanders had enjoyed
good health, ^{up to this time} but from this on his health declined
until death ended his suffering. At first the guards,
that is the regular prison guards, stood or had beats on
the outside of the stockade, but on account of the
proving disposition of the Yankees + so that the
guards could better observe what was going on in-
side sentry boxes were constructed on top of the
stockade. Here the sentries had a good view of the
inside of the stockade + could soon report to hear

quarters. There were over one hundred of these sentry boxes which were reached by a flight of stairs. These boxes or posts were numbered from one to over one hundred, commencing at the south gate & should anything occur at post say eighty, you to cause ⁵⁸ suspicion of the guard at that sentry box, you would hear the short quick call of the guard, in his broken negro dialect call, "Coporal of the god post no. eighty," which would be repeated by each post back to no. one. Then the corporal would hurry up with his guard to ascertain the trouble. Also when all was going well & also to ascertain whether the guards were wakeful the time was called every half hour as follows beginning at no. 1, & supposing the hour to be ten o'clock No. 1 would sing out "post no. 1 ten o'clock & alls well," "post no. 2 ten o'clock & alls well" & so on to the last post. The guards varied this call often. We recollect one night when the rain had been falling in torrents the guard posted near the north gate sang "post - ten o'clock ^{2nd} ~~ten o'clock~~ post - and art as hell." I forgot to mention the fact that the stockade had two entrances, there were on the west side & known as North & South gates. Our home (?) was near the north gate. Years after leaving this prison we seemed to hear this call with all the distinctness of old age even now in my dreams I seem to hear that call. The stakes I have mentioned as being driven in side of the stockade &

formed a line that prisoners were not allowed to pass without punishment; were capped with a line ⁵⁶ & thus formed the celebrated dead line. The guards stationed in their sentry boxes were ordered to shoot down without warning any man who passed this dead line & every guard who killed a Yankee was allowed a furlough for thirty days. Many were the tragedies enacted along this dead line & among a poor boy who wore his blue mud down before the unerring rifle of the guard. Providence Spring was on the next dead line & a scene was enacted there one day which even now to think of it sends the blood in a cold stream through my veins. A great many were about the spring getting water a poor crazy man happened to step over the dead line, the guard fired missed the offender & hit three innocent men. Such reckless shooting was no uncommon thing. A member of my own regiment, Maurice Prindle, was thus shot in the night when asleep & while lying at least ten feet from the dead line. The night was dark & the guard imagined he saw some one pass the dead line, when he fired, missed his spook but hit poor Prindle. The bullet took effect in the top of the head tearing the skull to pieces in a shocking manner. Poor Maurice never

knew what hurt him. We were so thick on the ground that it was almost impossible for a bullet to enter the stockade without hitting some one. I have no doubt but some men crossed the dead line on purpose to be killed & thus put an ^{end} to their sufferings, choosing to die a quick death by the bullet rather than a slow one by starvation & disease. I recollect the sad case of a man who was shot near the south gate. He had suffered from diarrhoea & scurvy finally gangrene set in on one of his limbs, he grew despondent, told some of his companions that he was going to put an end to his sufferings, walked deliberately across the dead line & was killed. The Andersonville dead line & the horrors connected with it can never be effaced from the memory of men who were at Andersonville.

The means adopted to guard the prison was as complete as could be made. Our guards at first were all regular Confederate troops, but as Sherman began to advance they were relieved by Gen. State troops. These latter we found to be more vindictive & a great deal readier to shoot than the regular troops. The rebels who served as our guards were camped west & S. W. of the stockade, the head quarters of the Commandant of the post, Gen. Winder, being situated S. W. A fort was erected to the S. W. this en-

trained the artillery which was so arranged as to completely rake every part of the stockade. Then two lines of breast works were erected around the enclosure with forts at the angles. In any attempt of the prisoners at an outbreak these forts ⁵⁸ and breast works could be manned in very short order.

When Sherman was approaching Atlanta it was reported that he was going to send a cavalry expedition to release us. The rebels at once put some 2500 negroes to work fortifying against any attempt from our side to relieve us, all their fortifying up to this time having been done for the purpose of securing us prisoners. But Stoneman's raid was a failure & instead of coming to relieve us they came to share our fate. A great many of these raiders I knew, as many of them were from the neighborhood in which I was raised. One consolation they brought news from home & our army. Along the latter part of May & in June prisoners from the army of the Potomac began to come in, many of these were from my own regiment & some from my own Co., they brought us news from home the first we had since the day we were captured. They told us of the terrible battles of the Wilderness & Spottsylvania & how the mighty chieftain had set his face towards Richmond & had concluded to "fight it out on that line

if it took all summer. We felt that the army of
the Potomac had made its last retreat, that through
its victories & the victories of Sherman depended our
liberation. How earnestly we hoped & prayed for
their success. A sentinel as I have stated ⁵⁹ was placed
in each sentry box also a guard was kept on
the ground on the outside of this stockade, then
pickets were placed at all points between swamps
on on the R.R. & all public roads where it would
be supposed any escaped yankee could get past.
At other points the impenetrable swamps stood
sentinel, almost as potent as the walls themselves.
In addition to all this a pack of trained dogs
were kept ready to trail down any yankee
who by any means may have escaped. These
savage blood hounds when once on the scent
were very difficult to elude. Many were the schemes
advanced to elude them in case any of us
were fortunate enough to pass this other bar-
rier opposed to our escape. Some would make
streams, but this in Ga was attended with a
great deal of danger. Some would give them
fresh meat & poison, but I am of the opinion
that the advocates of the latter would have eaten
the fresh meat & have thrown the poison to the
dogs so how to get rid of these blood hounds
was often the topic of conversation when some

scheme of release was in process of consummation.
I will then give the reader an idea how to escaped
Yankees worked the matter. They had eluded the
guards, but the sure scented bloodhound ⁶⁰ was
now called upon. The keeper of the dogs sounded
his horn calling his dogs to gather, the trail
of the boys was found where they had passed
the picket line, the dogs were given the trail &
away they went unerringly. The boys heard the
pursuit & began to plan accordingly. One of these
men had succeeded in eluding the searchers
for contraband of war & thus kept his revolver.
Thus they thought would now serve them a good
purpose, they had but three cartridges but these
were to be used against the dogs, they retreated
from the open ground into a swamp but one dog
far in advance of the main pack pursued them
unerringly, now was their chance to use the
revolver a shot was fired but missed the dog
another - another & the dog was slain, but this
pause had allowed the main pack to come up
they were compelled to take to a tree. Soon the
dogs had them so that escape was impossible,
these savage dogs & more savage masters were
over on the spot making as hideous a noise as
if they had the most generous breasts on the

ned. The owner soon discovered his favorite dog dead, this so exasperated him that he ordered the men down from the tree & then set the whole pack on them. Then commenced a sanguinary conflict between men & dogs, the owner of the dogs urging them on as he would upon a wild beast. The prisoners clothing was torn into shreds & their bodies fearfully lacerated, finally they are so much exhausted by the unequal contest that the dogs were called off, the owner remarking that they had had sufficient punishment for killing his dog. I saw these men in the hospital, saw their frightful wounds & heard them tell the story as I tell it to you. What finally became of them I never knew but suppose they should the same fate ^{that} of thousands of brave ^{aid} boys in this hell of hells.

Of the three essentials ^{food, clothing & shelter} to man in a civilized state, I will now speak as they were furnished us at Andersonville. When we first arrived at Andersonville our rations were issued to us in a raw state & we expected to cook them or eat as we could. Our rations were issued once a day, unless we had committed some offence which was held enough in the sight of Mery to justify him in withholding them for one day, or two. These rations consisted daily of about

in pint of the coarsest kind of meal, being
corn ground cobs & all, a small piece of bacon

was given about every other day, sometimes we
had fresh beef, but this was of a very poor quality
and often so far advanced in putrefaction as
to be smelled at a distance of one hundred
feet, this meat often contained maggots but I
I have the first man to find who threw his ra-
tions away on account of these small affairs, in-
fact we were hungry enough to eat anything set
before us. We drew blackeyed peas, these were so
much eaten with worms that had we anything
else to eat we would have dispensed with them.

About every third day we would draw a table-
spoonful of salt, once in awhile a small amount
of rice & a few times molasses. The quantity of this food
was very small & the quality very poor, added to this
we had to do our own cooking, without cooking utensils
or only such as our ingenuity could construct, the
fuel supply was so small that I will say a great
deal of the time we drew no more wood to cook meat
than is contained in a match box of matches. To kee-
p our supply we dug up stumps & split them into
slavings, dug out roots & saved every splinter the
size of a match. The who entered the stockade first
had a chance to lay in a supply of wood, which

were not enjoyed by those who came a month later. The inside of the stockade at that time was covered with logs, limbs, pine boughs & chips, then we collected & hoarded as a miser hoards his gold. Our mess constructed an oven out of clay in which we baked our bread & also bread for other comrades, by them furnishing wood. Our culinary vessels were very meager in supply, to help out we would whittle out staves, get out bottoms, cut chimneys, dig out pine roots for hoops & of these construct water pails & vessels in which to get our rations etc.

I constructed one of these vessels which would hold about a gallon, and which was greatly admired by all who saw it. This I brought with me as far as Annapolis, where some one stole it. I was taking it home as a keepsake or memento of Andersonville prison. We made wooden spoons & whittled out chips for plates. We had had no new clothing since being imprisoned, consequently our clothes were worn to tatters, ⁺ very very dirty. I was my underclothing as long as able, in fact I washed them so much that they were worn out in the summer was gone, we then were left with blouse pants & hat alone & when we left Andersonville our blouse sleeves

we were in tatters to the elbows & our pants
were in the same dilapidated condition to the
knees. Those that had been confined longer ⁶⁴
than we were compelled to take clothing from
the dead to hide their nakedness. The shelter
we had was such as our ingenuity could
devise out of the raw material & which was
very much limited in supply. The old pris-
oners found much better in this respect than
later arrivals. The mess to which I belonged col-
lected poles, small logs, brush & pine boughs & of
these constructed ^a rude huts. We first set two
posts in the ground facing the street & lay
a log for pole from one post to the other at
the rear we placed a log from this pole & to
this log we laid smaller poles thickly & over
this put pine boughs covering the whole
with dirt, this served as a shelter from the
hot sun & also kept us from the rain unless
it was too severe when we were thoroughly
soaked. The prisoners who came after these
materials had been preempted were com-
pelled to make gopher holes to shield them
from the burning sun & protect them to a
certain extent from the chilly nights, for no
difference how hot & burning the sun in the

Say times the nights were very chilly. But thousands, same when there was no good place to make even gopher holes, these were compelled to lie out without shelter or covering. Blisters ^{by} the sun by day & chilled by the cold at night is it a wonder that thousands died of chronic diarrhoea, scurvy, dropsy etc., the only wonder is that all did not die. I am of the opinion that at one time ten thousand men were without shelter. The rebel authorities can frame no good excuse why shelter & fuel was not furnished us. We were surrounded by pine woods which would furnish us every facility had we had the privilege of making use of these facilities. We could have had wood in abundance to cook our food thoroughly, timber to have built huts was in abundance & we only awaited their permission to make use of these gifts of nature. What a vast amount of sickness & suffering could have been obviated had we had the permission to use these things. A system of slavery practiced by a people begets a feeling of inhumanity to all those who they think lower than themselves. They care for such little more than they do for the brute. The method made use of by the slave &riciboracy of the South in their treatment of prisoners of war & their own slaves well illustrates this point. We were looking

upon as no better than slaves. I do not want
the reader to understand that I accuse all
who held slaves as guilty of such barbarities,
for there were high toned men - women in the
South who were kind & considerate to their slaves
& would have been kind to us had they have
had a chance, but the barbarous element
was on top & they don't say a word.

There were many men of undoubted humanity
all through the South, men who if they dared
would have come to our assistance, but they don't
not do it for fear of ostracism if not personal
violence. The worst element of the South got command
of affairs in the war & especially is this so with
reference to prison officials. History will place
these individuals who had command of the
prison pen at Andersonville, when they properly
belong, as the most heartless wretches who ever
had the care of unfortunates who may have
fallen into their hands through the fortunes of
war. The names of Davis, Winch & Wey will be re-
membered by the historian only for the crimes
they are guilty of.

It seems a strange idea to have to tell that
among men who were undergoing such suffering
as were the prisoners at Andersonville should

have seen among these wretched business it was
not their intention or intention to carry out
their schemes they could not stop short of murder,
but there was just such a class as in this
prison. They were rougher from our larger cities, men
who had been pardoned from our penitentiaries, in
condition that they were the army, others who had
insisted that they might ply their occupations
upon their comrades. Through the fortunes of
war these men now found themselves in lin-
colnville. They banded themselves together
to a great number, their object being plunder.
The older prisoners offered but little prospect
of pay to them as but few had anything of which
they could be robbed, but the new arrivals from
the army of the Potomac from Sherman's army
furnished a field which they could glean to a
little advantage & one which provided some
reward for the undertaking. A great many of
these new arrivals brought in money watches
clothing & a great many things which their
captives desired, they would select a man who
had some article which they wished to possess,
they a number of them would then set upon
them & take by force the thing or article desired.
It was the case often that they would kill over-
right or maim for life those whom they

attacked, numbers had been killed & wounded
until they died, the thing was becoming unbr-
able, something must be done. So a council⁶⁸
was held among some of the law abiding
bodied prisoners & an organization was re-
solved upon, Sargt. Key of Illinois was made
chief of police, he organized his force thoroughly.
From the raiders & regulators came in contact,
some of the weak kneed among them abandoned
the gang but this only left a band of the most
desperate men any civilized community ever
saw. They still continued to ply their avocation
of plunder, many were the conflicts between them
& Key's men. Key saw it would be an ever ending
war, so he asked privilege of the Confederate author-
ties to arrest ^{+ court martial} the leaders, this was granted & prom-
ised on sight of the leaders. These were turned over
to the authorities for safe keeping until such time
as they could be court martialled. Officers from
Vicksburg were brought up to conduct the trial,
a court was convened a formal trial held & from
the evidence adduced six were pronounced guilty
and sentenced to be hung. The day for their
execution was set & they remained to the author-
ities for safe keeping until the day of execution.
As the day approached the news furnished

Key & his men material with which to construct
a gallows, this was made large enough to ac-
commodate the six. The scaffold was completed & the
day of the execution arrived, the rebels under a
strong guard marched the condemned men into
prison & turned them over to Key & his men. They
were attended by Father Hamilton that faith-
ful priest who made an appeal to Key & his
men for the lives of the condemned, but their
crimes were too atrocious & too numerous to
be condoned, the fiat had gone forth, they
must die. The ropes were adjusted the men
positioned & then given a short time in which to
talk. Father Hamilton then offered a prayer the
black caps were arranged, the drop fell &
five ~~men~~ ^{bodies} were left dangling in the air. One
McCarthy, the most vicious rascal in the
crowd broke his rope & although stunned &
pinioned made an attempt to escape, but was
eventually brought back & hung & so ended the
lives of six notorious criminals. From the
experience of the prisoners I am inclined to
believe they thought it a farce, but the last
stages must have convinced them of their fate.
This completely broke up this band of raiders.
Sgt. Key & his men were the heroes of the hour.
The six men hung were from New York city &



Philadelphia. As I have given you one phase
of prison life which is horrible to contemplate I
now give you its opposite. It seems that such
a place would naturally call up the thought
of dying & a preparation for that death, yet from
the action of a great majority of the prisoners one
would think that the thought of ^{preparation for} dying never en-
tered their minds, that the idea that there is a God
directing the affairs of men was only a mystery
to them which they would not take the time to
unravel. But there was a band of true worshippers
of the most High who met often. These meetings
were led by Sargent Bond & others. It was a delight-
ful to us who had been raised religiously to
attend these meetings, hear the sweet songs of Zion,
hear the prayers offered to God for our protection
& direction, hear the exhortation of these men to
their comrades, hear them tell of Jesus' wonderful
love & of their determination to serve him as long
as life shall endure. These scenes brought to
our minds sweet memories of home & friends, we
had been brought up by religious parents, night
& morning the sweet songs of Zion had been sung &
prayers offered by father & mother for the guidance
& protection of their children. I knew that prayers were
also offered night & morning for me away off



in that Indiana home. May our prayer work up
right & morning for my dear friends at home & for
myself. I do not mean to say that I knelt down
& formally prayed but that I uttered night
& morning a secret prayer to God for protection &
direction through the trying scenes through which
I was called to pass. With one exception no protes-
tant minister of the South visited our prison -
a hold religious service with the prisoners, one
Baptist minister came over & preached to us.

But how different the Catholic Church. Two faith-
ful priests were always in attendance, giving
physical & spiritual comfort to their followers.

The name of Father Hamilton will ever be held
in grateful remembrance by many prisoners
who have confined in Andersonville. Here too we
first learned the practical benefits of Masonry.

The masons from the outside found out their
brethren on the inside furnished them food
clothing & shelter & when needed gave him a
decent burial. We were highly pleased with the
idea & shall ever honor an order who hold
together so well under such trying circum-
stances. May their ever practice friendship &
charity & they will do much to lighten the burdens
of the world.

The employment of the prisoners first proposed



ing the sawy fork with which we were furnished.
To do this with the amount of fuel & water furnished
& the amount of wood with which to do our ordinary house-
keeping work. We usually whittled our wood into fine
shavings & these were used in a very economical
manner. We had a kind of furnace on which we
placed our cooking utensils & picked to use & then we
would sit & keep up a fire by constantly keeping
shavings under on it. We sometimes made coffee
by broiling meat & then boiling it or coffee was
boiled. Our peas & rice were cooked in the same way.
After our food had been prepared & eaten if a
morning the next thing was to attend to clothing.
Body lice were everywhere, on the ground & in the
sand in vast numbers, on your clothing until
you could hardly rest. We kept these pests down
we were compelled to wear our colonial overalls, so
after breakfast our clothes were removed and care-
fully looked for lice & nits, this we did three
times each day and in a measure kept them
down, but we went to the prisoners, who from neglect
or on account of ill health omitted this duty, he
was soon covered with these pests until his clothing
was white with them & his hair & beard were full
of them. If we had only had some means of
boiling our clothing & some means of thoroughly
cleaning them would have greatly assisted us.

in our efforts to keep them down. But hot water
+ soap were two things to which we were strangers
while in rebel prisons. Story telling was a favorite
pastime, the boys would narrate stories of camp
+ march until there was like an old thing¹²
more tired than another pastime was whittling.
This a Yankee a jack-knife + he can make
almost any thing, some of the finest whittling
I ever saw was done by prisoners here. Some
would take a square stick + cut a complete log chain
making ring, wheel, links + hook, others would whittle
out jumping jacks of the most grotesque style.
rings were made of bone + breast pins of Spanish
pattern of the same material. The rebels found out
the most expert whittlers + furnished them ma-
terials to work upon + thus many prisoners earned
extra rations in this way. I came from near by
turned their attention to coopers, they from the
skin material at hand, constructed buckles,
cups etc, some of them were splendidly carved + shaped,
for example pine ~~foot~~ ^{tooth} ~~tooth~~ ^{tooth} as well. As I have stated
I made one which was considered a superior piece of
work of coopers, especially for an amateur. This was
shown from me at Annapolis Md. and I was very
sick + failed to watch it closely. It took now
I then found its way into the hospital. A comrade
while still leaving the hospital gave me a general



which I prized very much & was the first grand
history I had ever read. I had intended to have
kept it as a memento of under sonville, but a Com-
rade who was to remain in the hospital begged so
hard that I finally gave him my book. ⁷⁴ Could
we have had daily news & good books to have
read they would have given a long way toward
satisfying the mind, for if there is anything
which makes one miserable it is want for
employment of mind & body.

The 4th of July was approaching & we thought of
the good times we used to have on that joyous
occasion in our far away child's home in Indi-
ana. We wondered how & when friends would celebrate &
wondered if I might not yet get out in time to
help celebrate. But July came & I was still a
prisoner of war, & the worst part was I was sick,
for about this time I was attacked with scurvy,
neuralgia - rheumatism - heart disease & a trouble
with the right lung in addition to piles & liver com-
plaint which I already had. I am now informed
that my heart & lung trouble are only sympathetic
to come from the liver, but as to this I not being
a physician do not know. But the 4th of July came
& we were still prisoners of war. Sherman was
making his splendid advance towards Atlanta,
the people of the South complaining that taken in

entirely size allowing such an easy conquest of a
Southern soil. Many of our friends lived in northern
Ga. & they could not see why they were held to serve in
Southern Ga. while their homes were invaded, & ⁷⁵
they began to desert, threats were made that they
would entirely abandon the place, something must
be done. Gen. Howell Cobb at that time was the
commander of the Ga. state militia, he was sent
for, to see if he could not appease the wrath &
resentment of the men. He came & had the Ga. troops
drawn up in a line. He had just begun to speak
when some one commenced to sing the first stanza
of the Star Spangled Banner, when it came to the
Chorus five thousand voices joined, Cobb stopped
speaking, again the second stanza was sung then
ten thousand voices joined in "O long may it
wave on the land of the free & home of the brave."
Gen. Cobb ordered Capt. Herz to stop the noise, among
the prisoners Herz appeared at the north gate was
seen to flourish his revolver & gesticulate, but
what cared we then for Herz, we were celebrating
the 4th of July, Herz for once failed to shoot. Prob-
ably the sentiment paralyzed him. Again
we sang & when we came to the Chorus fifth time
it seemed that the whole camp joined. Oh! it
was a sea of ~~such~~ song, such a chorus had never
been heard by mortal ears on this continent even

and with the spirit ~~and~~ sleeping & in repeating
the whole camp ~~rose~~ or those who were able to do so
rose as one man & then cheer on cheer roused
the air, men who were unable to assist ~~who~~ in a
few short hours would be with their God, were seen
to raise their thin, bony arms, and raise their
feeble voices, to swell the strain. Oh! it was a
scene which we never expect to witness ^{again} while
we live, a scene which no painter nor poet has
ever conceived of. Yes, it was a scene to raise the
spirits of dying men & one calculated to depress
the spirits of the enemies of ^{our country} the ~~land~~. The rebels were
enchanted with the scene. They stood & gazed at thought.
It brought back to them the memories of other days.
The words of the song & the enthusiasm of the ^{Sixth} ~~men~~
singing them produced a profound impression.
They were heard to say we can never conquer, &
with us too were permitted to sing that song &
live under that flag. Many from that time vowed
that they would never do anything more against
that old flag. But still the great majority thought
we must stick to our star & so went on per-
forming duty. As yet came & ~~the~~ the sickness
was fearful, the death rate had ^{almost} reached one hun-
dred & fifty per day, the boys ^{so} I have mentioned had
made a sink ~~in~~ by the men, the excrement lay
over the surface to the depth of from six to ten inches.

It was a stock which we needed all over the
camp filth lay all over the ~~camp~~, the stream from
which we received our water supply was contaminated
with by the rebel's camp & cattle & cook house, the water
was very impure & ~~unpleasant~~ ⁷⁷ ~~unpleasant~~, our ~~water~~ ^{was} ~~drinking~~
for some days. But the rain began to descend, harder
& harder they came until on the 1st the 9th a cloud burst
came & such a flood ^{has} ~~was~~ ^{seen} ~~seen~~ our little stream
became a raging flood, the stockade was washed
down in five places, logs came floating & dashing
through, men stripped & plunged into the raging
flood to secure wood for ~~fire~~ ~~cooking~~, in the
midst of all the confusion a signal gun was fired
starting a shot across the stockade, the rebel
guards were called out in the blinding rain, at
the sight of their discomfiture the men in the
stockade began to cheer, another & another gun was
fired to scare & keep down the prisoners. Finally
the rain ceased. That mighty Hercules had
performed as mighty a wonder as the famous
Hercules of old did in cleaning the Augean stables.
That mighty sink was cleared of all filth, but
this was not the only good result just on the
1st & 2nd dead line, the rain had washed out a gully
from which issued a spring of clear pure water.
There was a good sign, instead of the polluted water
of the brook, we had the clear pure waters from



providence spring with which to slake our thirst
I have no drink of that pure water, how pure & cool
it seemed to our parched lips & do you wonder that
it seemed it providence spring. Indeed Providence a few
inches had seen our need and had sent the water ⁷⁸
pure & cool, direct from mother earth. Providence spring
was the talk of the camp. It was attributed to God himself
who had designed to give the cry of his children in
the land of olden times. Hence had the children of Israel.

The person who makes a visit to the Anderson
mill. Certainly now always visits Providence
spring & slakes his thirst at the fountain which
Providence created in 1864.

A few years ago Langt. Dumber sent me some
leaves from the shrubbery growing around our
spring. What sad & at the same time what pleasant
memories they brought up. Sad because we thought
of the suffering our comrades who had endured
in that spring, sad because of the many friends
we had to die in that prison, but pleasant because
we and so many of our friends had been per-
mitted to slake our thirst when so much in
need at that very spring which ^{had been} ~~was now~~ shaded
by iron bars.

The method used to punish prisoners for small
offenses was sometimes cruel in the extreme & entirely
to serve further prison commitment. He has questioned



It created a stream which was swelled all over the
camp filth lay all over the ~~camp~~ ^{camp}, the stream from
which we received our water supply was contaminated
with by the rebels camp & cut off & broke down, the water
was very impure & unwholesome, ⁷⁷ men were drinking
for some days. But the rain began to descend, harder
& harder they came until August 1st to 9th a cloud burst
came & such a flood of ^{water} ~~water~~ ^{seen} ~~seen~~ our little stream
became a raging flood, the stockade was washed
down in five places, logs were rushing & dashing
through, men stopped & plunged into the raging
flood to secure wood for ~~fire~~ ^{fire} & cooking, in the
midst of all the confusion a signal gun was fired
sending a shot across the stockade, the rebels
were called out in the blinding rain, at
the sight of their discomfiture the men in the
stockade began to cheer, another & another gun was
fired to scare & keep down the prisoners. Finally
the rain ceased. That mighty Hercules had
performed as mightily a wonder as the famous
Hercules of old did in clearing the Aeneas stables.
That mighty sink was cleared of all filth, but
this was not the only good result. Just on the
next dead line, the rain had washed out a gully
from which issued a spring of clear pure water.
Here was a good source, instead of the polluted water
of the brook, we had the clear pure water from

and Herz were mere tools, who were sacrificed for
their well known brutality & hatred of the Germans.
Herz was hung; Wainder killed by lightning, and
at this time, July 1883 Davis still lives to
afflict the people of this country with his doctrine
of States rights, which he on every possible occasion
puts forth.



the punishment of confinement, David Sanders,
He now also mentioned the cutting of the railroad
the men for trivial offenses. Then he had not been long
in prison, until we began to plan to escape. The first
attempt was made by digging on the inside of the
posts & leaning them in a few nights & then entering
we made the attempt in five places but were un-
successful. Next we attempted tunneling. The soil
who had been our companions in Richmond sold
for a house (3) a large pine log lying parallel with
and some twenty feet from the stockade. This was
selected because it furnished a good place for
constructing a house, but the primary object
was that it offered a fine field for operating a tunnel.
Every preparation was made & at night the tunnel
was begun. At that time the guard had a trap on
the outside of the stockade. First an opening was
dug vertically about six feet in the ground
then we commenced to dig laterally, thus we con-
tinued until we had reached a distance of sixty
feet. Patiently & diligently we had worked in
the dark under the ground & in oppressive air, but
soon we were to enjoy the privilege of being outside
prison walls. We had discussed plans, had
promised to bear messages & guide from some
who were visible to escape. Some of us felt that
we were almost securing the promised land.



what a commotion at the sailing with Herz had ⁸⁰
ended with a guard + is arresting anyone who he
can find who has been connected with the tunnel.
A friend of mine who had taken an active part kept away
from the scene, but sent a friend who had not
been engaged in the construction to spy out
the land. He soon returned + reported that an
outchman had turned traitor + given Herz in-
formation of our work. Herz marched our sailor-
friends outside the stockade, put them in rows
from which the poor fellows were only relieved
by death. Some escaped because the outchman
was not able to recognize them I was among the
latter. After the arrest the German returned to the
stockade for some trinket or to bid some friends good
bye when he was seized his head shaved perfectly
close + then told to go + see no more. Herz attempted
to find the perpetrators of this outrage as he de-
monstrated it, but he could find no one who
would tell, he said then he would find out as he
would give us no rations until we gave up the
perpetrators. We received no rations for two days, yet
no one would tell + he finally concluded to give us
rations again. For trivial offences he hung up men
by the thumbs. The stocks were another means of
punishment. A man would be sentenced to so
much time in the stocks in that he would never

day & night, should his sentence continue so long. Some have denied the stockade being in use at Andersonville, but at the same time I doubt not hundreds of men are living who have seen them many times. I have described only the first tunnel at Andersonville, a great many others were attempted. I recollect a tunnel now in course of construction on the east side of the stockade, this had got quite a distance beyond the wall, two men were at work in it in daytime. The guard in coming round saw the tunnel in which these men as a rule would be caught in by men tramp-ing on them, these men had then to dig for life or they would soon have suffocated, as soon as they struck the air they ran to make their escape but were soon caught & put in chains. A new method was organized, which if it had been carried out would have resulted in a general escape of us who were unable to get away. I give it as a comrade told me. About six thousand of the strongest organized themselves for the purpose of making an escape, they were ordered pursuant to the stockade, on the east side south of the brook, they then tunneled along the stockade in a considerable distance. They were then to rush upon the wall & push it over, capture the guards, take their weapons, capture the

S-21. of us + then march to our lines. The point selected was the poorest defended firing point in the camp, but while the strong ones were capturing this point they would have been playing their batteries upon us who were too weak to get away. The scheme was abandoned & we were glad of it. Those of us who were unable to walk would have been massacred by the rebels. Some were paroled out & thus escaped. Some saw death staring them in the face & took the oath of Allegiance, joined the rebel army, in the hope of escaping in this way. Such were generally sadly disappointed. But most of us had rather die in Andersonville rather than take the oath of Allegiance to fight for a flag which we so much detested. One thousand of our men died in this prison for the old flag & thousands of others have died since leaving there for the same ^{dead} old flag. They died & have been dying all die from disease contracted there. There was as much fortitude & heroism shown in prison as was shown on the battle field, but with less chance of reward. Forgive me now all pen can not describe the horrors of that prison pen & only in that great day when the books are opened & we all shall be judged with the perpetrators of that infamous crime receive their just punishment.

Such a place of opposition of spirits as were
 seen in Andersonville is seldom seen. Joy & sorrow,
 love & hate, health & sickness were strangely com-
 mixed. Some times prisoners would hear news
 of exchange, or that our armies were gaining
 great victories, or even imagine that the whole camp
 was a scene of wild confusion, shouting & yelling
 the good news, but again the news would come that
 the exchange would not be resumed until the
 close of the war, then & that our armies were
 being defeated, then a gloom would settle over
 the whole camp. Prisoners would become sullen
 & peevish, the least act or word & they were
 ready to fight their best friend. I have seen men
 who were unable to walk crawl together & fight
 over a bone, the best of friends became the bitterest
 enemies over a crust of bread, a single mouthful of
 beef would lead to a bitter quarrel. The best of
 friends would become the bitterest enemies if it
 were a rule that friends did not last long. But no com-
 moner was it to see comrades who were
 in favor of an angry word toward them. Such was
 the life of myself & David Sanders, our comrade
 that if brothers or like unto that of David & John
 athan. When we had to part the parting was like
 that of living brothers. He was taken to the hospital
 & soon died. In him I lost a true friend & the

government a gallant & patriotic soldier.
The people of the North heard of the terrible suffering of
these prisoners in the South & especially at Libby
Prison. Many were anxious by some of our
friends to send us something to keep us from star-
ving, but their plan was generally condemned
by the people of the North as only a plan to feed
& clothe the rebels, they thinking the food thus
sent would be kept by & used by the rebels,
it is a great pity this was true. My father heard
of our terrible sufferings, hastened to Indian-
apolis, procured a box filled it with good sub-
stantial food, a pair of boots & some clothing
& with a prayer for its safe arrival started it
to his starving boy. The box came but the boots
& clothing were missing, but a ham crackers
& other luxuries came, this was indeed a God-
send to myself & companions, several of whom
shared with me. To this box sent by a loving father
no doubt but some of us owe our lives. A great
many boxes which were started never came
others were robbed of nearly all their contents.
While here I wrote to some of my kin folks in N.C.
for help but received no answer, whether they
ever got my communication I never knew.
The Union people of the South have not made an
attempt to relieve our situation, if they did so

It only subjected them to additional persecution. Then my father was preparing to send the way of provisions too high in authority tried to dissuade him, telling him that he would only be feeding & clothing the rebel Army, but he was bound to make the attempt & through the direction of the mighty ruler of the Universe we received provisions in that box which we now feel saved our lives.

One would hardly think that Andersonville prison would offer a field for ^{the} operations of traders, but that was inevitable Yankee business for trade could not be kept down but such an unpromising prospect as Andersonville offered. With a small amount of money these traders would start out they would buy & sell to the rebel guards & also to their fellow prisoners.

Some of these traders seemed to make a good living as was shown by their good clothes & full garms. But their number was few. Of the classes who came through in good health, in many instances, traders, persons, barter who received extra rations, & those who were sick paroled but were on duty for which they received extra rations. A committee of prisoners was sent North to notify our government of the suffering of our boys at Andersonville, but they were suffering for principle & that principle was that all men of whatever color or condition who were soldiers in the U. S. Army were entitled to the same treatment &c

the soldiers of that army. The principal was right but while the principle was right I can not see why the government does not reward those who are faithful for the fearful suffering endured. Because many of said prisoners can not prove any small crime the government requires they are debarred from obtaining a pension. Proof that the person applying had been a prisoner ^{for four months} & remained loyal to the U. S. should be enough to entitle him to a pension. For no man could remain in such a prison at Andersonville for a period of four months & retain his normal health if he received the common prison fare & common prison treatment. Those who lay sick & dying in the stockade, with ⁱⁿ sufficient food, without medical attention, with no shelter & no clothing. Deaths were occurring all the time. On awaking in the morning you could see the dead lying here & there over the ground. They had died alone & without attention. No friend to make soft covering pillow, no mother, no sister, no friend to hear the ^{dying} last word, although in a rushing multitude no friend who could render any assistance on the bare ground, without covering or shelter, with nothing on which to rest their weary heads, with the pitiless rain falling upon them, with the night air chilling them, with the hot sun burning them, then they lay dying by hundreds. From seventy-five to one hundred would die some days in the stockade. The hospital was full & overflowing and the sick could not lie at the

South gate, for the sick would appear if they were able to
move, or if unable to walk they had friends sitting on
benches to carry them. Then they were carried on stretchers on
a chair in the hospital. They can see all well illustrated
this scene, I was entirely helpless, was suffering with a
complication of disease, my friends saw I would die
they thought, after afterwards one of the boys said "they
held a consultation and decided that you were bound to
die & we did not want to see you die & we unable to help you,
so we concluded to get you to the hospital", so day after day
these faithful friends would get me in a blanket & carry
me across to the south gate until finally on the fifth
trial they were rewarded by my admission to the hos-
pital. It was then hard for me to part, we had little pros-
pect of meeting again since if the Lord of God I was taken
to the hospital & placed in the 12th ward. Here I had a time
to shelter me, a board to lie on. This latter kept me out of
the possibility of body lice with which the same was also. Morning
came & with it the night Dr. He proved to be a man
with a warm sympathetic heart. He inquired my
name, my present, & all about my case. I told him
that I felt like I could not live another day, I had
a terrible suffocating pain in my breast, but he
in his stammering way spoke encouragingly to me.
He said k-k-k-keep your e-e-courage up & &
I-I-wi-ill b-b-bring you o-o-out of this.
He told me he would send me some bread, butter, & sugar.

soup. So in a short time after he left, we obtained
 some little small biscuits, & some soup. Ah, then
 there are a feast! Starvation was my principal dis-
 tress for I had no good fit for a sick man to eat
 while in the stockade. In addition to food he gave me
 some acids in a few days the sores began to heal
 and I got so, ^{that} in a few weeks I could sit up, in a
 month I was so I could hobble about some on crutches.
 How proud I was then! The little child just beginning
 to walk did not feel prouder of his first attempt than
 I did of mine. In fact I was a child again only
 I grew faster. To this noble hearted Dr. Rowzie I am
 grateful for his kind treatment to me. Although he
 wore the rebel uniform beneath was a warm heart,
 & I have no doubt but he was a Union man. But I can
 not speak in such glowing terms of other rebel
 surgeons. For this act & treatment of our men who
 were under their care we have nothing but warm
 affection. A case which came under my personal
 observation will illustrate my point. There were three
 of us in the same tent, a sergeant from an
 Ohio regiment, Sergeant Howard from a Michigan
 Cavalry regiment & myself. Sergeant Howard had
 been wounded through the thigh & placed in one
 of our field hospitals under the care of our sur-
 geon. He would not stay in any more, but the next
 day found the hospital with all its inmates, then

that were able to see that under cover, among
 that the two surgeons Howard & the other Sgt. Howard
 were young, intelligent & of a very lovable disposition, this
 from our almost immediate & handsome as that
 of a girl. He had succeeded in bringing with him
 some soap & sponge which he used to dress his wound.
 Under his treatment to the help we could see that his
 wound was almost healed. Dr. Rongie had been taken
 out from our ward & a young apothecary sent in his
 place, this young Dr. said to Howard that he under-
 stood he was wounded, Howard said he was. The Dr. said
 he wished to see his wound. Howard said he would
 show him but he was dressing it himself & he did
 not want any one to dress it. When the Dr. saw the wound
 he demanded them to dress it. Howard begged him not
 to do so as he was afraid of getting gangrene in his
 sore in which case he was sure to die, but the Dr.
 was inexorable, he would dress the wound. Howard then
 asked him to use his (Howard's) sponge, saying that the
 Dr. had been using his sponge on gangrene sores &
 by that means he would communicate the disease to
 him (Howard), the Dr. replied that there was no danger
 in it & to make he near Howard begging all the time
 for his life. The result was gangrene set in, ^{the flesh on,} Howard
 lay over a table to the bone & the poor fellow died, a victim
 either to ignorance or pure hellishness, I attribute it
 to the latter. Some of the scenes of suffering in the

hospital to give description. Surgical operation was performed day, the only reason for some of them seemed to be to give practice to young medical surgeons. Limbs are amputated then the only effect it had was to hasten to death of the patients. The prominent diseases here were scurvy, diarrhoea, dropsy & gangrene. You could find hardly a prisoner but what was afflicted with scurvy. This disease first showed itself in the gums, these become inflamed & swollen, the whole body then become sore & was racked with pain, the lower extremities are attacked, the skin turned dark & shrunk to the bone, the flexor muscles shortened up until the knee assumed an angle of about 45°, this finally produced death. Especially when the discoloring extended to the body. Poor food, poor shelter & poor clothing were the producers of scurvy, & scurvy in its turn would produce diarrhoea, heart disease, lung disease, gangrene, liver complaint, dropsy etc. Almost everyone at some time was troubled with diarrhoea, this often produced piles. But the most horrible sights were those afflicted with dropsy & gangrene. In case of dropsy the patients would often swell up until the feet would crack open, the gangrene would then set in & would eat away until the patient would die. I have seen men with their lips eat off, with others with their limbs eat to the bone before death came to the wretched dying scene in Andersonville I will never forget. When the rebels star-

in a tent with James Cogan Jr. Comm. + Sargt.

If N. Y. I found both to be intelligent men + Sargt. was reported to be very rich.

Election day came round, the prisoners had all left the stockade, the rebels wished to test the sentiment of the men remaining, so they arranged for us to vote. The majority for Lincoln was great but how much I do not now know. After the vote had been counted I heard a rebel officer who was near say that "Long E - F. C. who voted for Lincoln ought to rot here". It is impossible for pen to describe or tongue to tell some of the scenes presented here. One may be gifted with word painting, may be enabled to combine in the strongest form the adjectives of the English language, yet with all the combinations he can make, he only gives a faint idea of the sufferings of our men. I wish I had the faculty of word painting so that I could with words give the reader an idea of the camp scene as I saw it at Andersonville. I had heard horrible stories of that place, so when I was able to walk far enough I braved the elements of that place. It found me a consoling to walk with a good blade in my hand, without any

(B)

At the time of my first visit it was full of dead
laying there in all their ghastliness, some whose
terribly emaciated forms telling that starvation & diarrhea
had taken them off, some with bloated figures which
told that dropsy had been their disease, others with
dark distorted limbs which told plainly that scurvy
had done its work, again others with lips eaten away
or the flesh eaten to the bone which spoke of their
terrible suffering from gangrene. There had been laying
here for two or three days, the weather was very hot & put-
refaction had set in. A great many of them were
naked others had their old tattered garments
and all seemed so filthy, having had so little care
when unable to care for themselves. While I was viewing
the scene the dead wagon came to remove a load for
instance, this was an army wagon & was in
charge of Negroes. These dead were pitched into the
wagon, as cholera hags are at the north are han-
dled, until the wagon was full, arms & legs sticking
out from the promiscuous heap. A great many
corpses were so far gone by putrefaction that
the flesh slipped from the bone, the stench was al-
most intolerable. They were then driven to the an-
nals where a long truck had been prepared

for their reception, This trench was dug six feet wide + of indefinite length, the head of one man or woman would then be placed in the trench then another by his side but with his head in the opposite direction + so on until the load is disposed of. At the head of each man is a stake with a number placed on it, this number corresponds to one in the record of the dead + in that record a name is placed opposite the no.

When an one thus placed they were covered with dirt + the burial was completed. In such a manner were over 13,000 of our brave boys buried at Andersonville Ga. Allowing three feet to be occupied by each dead man when laid side by side, yet it would take a trench over seven miles to hold the dead. Suppose Indianapolis the people should die off in the same length of time to the amount of 13,000 the papers of the world would announce the terrible catastrophe in significant headlines.

The papers of our own country would be filled with reports from the stricken city, yet here was a camp which at most contained only about half the population of the city of Indianapolis + yet lost 13,000 in about nine months. Can you, do you blame us

who saw & endured this suffering for heralding to the world the terrible scenes enacted here. He saw the world to know the facts, we want every loyal man & woman to know the facts, we want that vast host of people in the South, who were honest in their convictions about secession but who did not approve of such work, to know the truth about the matter, we want unborn generations to know who the responsible parties were & for what purpose. You are well to tell it to our children with an injunction that they hand it down to those coming after them. God grant that such scenes & such suffering may never be witnessed again on this continent. Nov. 1864 came. We had our seasons of despondency & hope. One day news came that we would be exchanged right off next day no hope. The prisoners were all gone from the stockade. Dargt came in one day & reported that they were taking names for some purpose. He thought that the ^{very} weak & sick were going to be sent to our lines. Egan & I questioned him closely; about the movements being made & from what he told us we concluded that it was those who were able to stand travel who would be

sent off. Srgt. again went to watch
the operation of taking names, Eagan & I did
not go as we were not able to walk & stand
round to hear what was going on, again he reported
& still thought the sick would be the ones ex-
changed, Eagan & I still thought different, Srgt —
still contended that he was right. He crawled
into his bunk, when he saw the Drs. approaching
who were taking names, soon they were at our
tent, they asked the Srgt. about his health, he
reported himself very sick, was unable to walk.
They then asked Eagan if he could walk he an-
swered in the affirmative, they then had him
to show them how well he could walk, Eagan
was then using a crutch but he hobbled out in
his best style & his crutch. They then put the
same question to me & asked me to give a specimen
of my walking, I was then using two crutches
but stepped out to the best of my ability, we
saw them take both of our names, the Sergeants
they omitted. He then concluded that we were
right & he wrong. He then wanted to hear one
of us to take his & he ours. A thousand p.

dollars + quite an amount of land was offered
 but we preferred a chance for life rather than
 lands + money. Next day we were ordered to get
 ready to start. Gladly we obeyed for nine long
 months had we been in this prison + we were
 glad of a change or when it might. We were
 sorry to part with kind friends, some of whom could
 last but a few days, especially were we sorry to
 the Sargt, but could not help him. We went to the
 gate of the hospital + as our names were called we
 were paroled out + started for the station. Although
 hardly able to walk yet we did our best for we
 felt this to be our only hope, for had we remained
 over winter we could not have lived. We made the
 train + before night were aboard the train + on
 our way to Macon. Here we were halted we knew
 not why, We began to fear that we were to go
 no farther. But next day found us on the road
 towards Savannah. We then saw evidence where
 we were detained. A detachment of Sherman's Army
 had cut the R. R. + we had been detained until
 the rebels could drive them away + repair the road.
 We went to Millen Ga. + were put in Camp Lupton

We now thought we were only changed from one
 prison to another, but in two days we were called
 out again & away we went to Savannah, but even
 now we were not certain but that we were to gain
 let pass in some of those prisons of the South.
 But this was not to be. Soon we were signing parole
 papers & then went aboard a rebel transport & away
 towards our fleet we sailed. Oh! this was a happy
 day. Down the Savannah we sailed, past Ft. Johnson,
 presently we came in sight of our fleet. Glorious
 sight the stars & stripes, floating instead of the
 stars & bars. When we saw them some of the boys began
 to cheer but the Commander notified us that if we
 did not stop the noise he would take us back to
 prison, all were hushed. Soon we were along side of
 an U. S. transport, the Eliza Hancock, & were looked
 to her, the gang plank was run out & as each
 one gained the deck of our vessel a wild cheer would
 greet the old flag. What a joyous day, One year
 had passed since we had seen the stars &
 stripes, one year since we had had any clothing,
 one year since we had seen Uncle Sam's Com-
 missionary, one year since we were free

Our clothing was in tatters. We were weary & dirty with unkempt hair & beards. We had only a blouse a shirt & a hat & there were poor apologies indeed for those articles. The ~~arms~~ sleeves of my blouse were off at the elbows, the legs of my pants at the knees. We were first shingled & shaved, then stripped naked & thoroughly washed, then we went aboard the N. Y. in U. S. transport & were furnished clean new clothing, then best of all ~~the~~ good food was issued to us. Oh! how sweetly we slept that night. We were under the stars & stripes, no fear of rebel guards. We awoke early next morning, soon we are breakfasted on food some of which was furnished by the Sanitary Commission. Oh! we are in a land once more flowing with milk & honey. Soon we will hear from home & loved ones, soon we will hear from comrades. Oh! now we can hear the truth from our armies. Sherman is pushing towards the sea, Grant is in front of Petersburg; Every where the coil is drawing tighter around rebellion. Oh! how we wish & pray that God will hasten its close. We are now sent aboard the Weybossett & down the Savannah river stream, past Ft. Pulaski & out onto the open sea. We

now sail towards the N.E. off Charleston Harbor
 we anchor awhile & communicate with our
 fleet which has so long guarded the entrance
 to the mother of secession. It was very much
 crowded & the Capt. of the vessel proposes to
 some of us worst cripples that we go down, in
 the hold & then there would be less danger
 of our being hurt. About forty of us volunteer
 to go down, we find it dark, but plenty of
 straw & withal a nice place in which to stay.
 In groping about in the forward part of the
 hold some one discovers cracker boxes, sugar
 barrels, hogheads of ham. We had only one com-
 plaint since coming to our lines & that was they
 did not give us enough to eat. Here then was a
 chance to remedy this. Barrels, box, etc. were broken
 open & soon we were feasting on raw ham, sugar
 & crackers. The officer in command soon found
 out the state of affairs. This was one of the things
 of all others that they wished to guard against
 for men who had been starved for a year, would
 be easily fowarded. The commandant & three or
 four guards came down & proceeded to stop
 that feast by confiscating all our provisions.

provisions. But they were too late for some
they had eaten such a portion that they
died from the effects & I may say that there
was not one who did not feel the more for
that feast. While off Cape Hatteras we had a
touch of a storm, the waves rolled fearfully,
the winds tore over the sea & through the rig-
ging at a fearful rate, the rain descended in
torrents, our ship was pitched about among the
waves until a great many sometimes it thought
it would go to the bottom. But that Hand that
had guided us in the past was now guiding us.
Good news is now called to us, we are passing
the capes of Va. & soon we float on the placid
waters of Chesapeake Bay. The weather had now become
calm, the placid waters of the bay glistened & shi-
nored in the sunlight, porpoises were thick about
the ship, and an odd scene it was to see this
strange sportings & diving. This was my first time
to be on deck since leaving Charleston to my
eyes which had only looked on scenes of sadness
for one long year, the scene I now beheld was one
of unexcelled beauty. We could see hundreds of white
sails covering the waters, U. S. transports were

passing continually to & from the army, the U.S.
 flag was seen floating proudly from our trans-
 ports. Grim old war ships were lying in Hampton
 Roads, ready at a moment's notice to do & die for
 freedom & freedom's cause. The strong walls of Ft.
 Monroe appear in view. The anchor is the Union.
 A band comes forth & gives us some of their
 sweetest music. Instead of Dixie & the Bonnie Blue flag
 we have our own national airs. How sweet these
 seem to us who for one year have heard nothing
 but Rebel music. What the same to us is grand
 & glorious. No more dead lines, no more belts &
 chains, no more stocks, no more horrible dead
 houses, no more hated rebel calls. No war now in
 the land of the free & the home of the brave. We are
 now ordered to Annapolis, after a pleasant journey
 we arrive at that place. The cripples are placed in
 Ambulances & taken to the hospital at Camp Parde.
 Here we are among friends indeed, The Christian
 Sanitary Commission are with each other in
 supplying our wants. Our improvement is rapid
 for food of the best quality is supplied & food
 is also medicine to us. The doctors begin to give
 away before a ^{vegetable} treatment & the use of acids.

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Our names are taken & published in the home papers. We write home to father, mother, brother & sisters, soon we receive a reply. How glad we are to hear from home & loved ones. Some we are pronounced able to travel & given a furlough home, why a furlough & not a discharge I never knew for my time had been out for near five months.

We start over the same road we had helped to open up in the early days of the war, (B.O.R.R.) We are on an Express train, but we are a half hour late in getting to Harper's Ferry. A freight is started on our time, but soon runs into a rebel trap, the track has been torn up by rebel Cavalry & the freight is wrecked. This trap was set for our train, but being late we were saved.

Through Maryland, through Virginia, through Ohio we go, & then we enter our native state & are soon at its capital. On this trip we have had to answer hundreds of questions, how we were treated, what we had to eat, what we had to wear, what the dead line was.

Parents who had lost a son came to know if we knew any thing of him. But our next trip must be made in a wagon, our horse is now only thirteen miles

away. We find a friend who agrees to take us home

We are soon on our road. We begin to think of the meeting with father & mother. Our friend leaves us to introduce ourselves. We go in the back way, mother is preparing the evening meal, father sits in another room talking with a captain who is a neighbor at home on furlough. I go in without knocking, my mother looks a moment, then flies to me with an exclamation, Oh! it's Tommy. She embraces me, we can not keep back our tears. Soon father, the Captain & the children join us. What a happy meeting. After an absence of three years & four months how happy to be at home again.

We remained at home a short time & were then ordered back to Annapolis. We tried to get a discharge but the adjutant general told us we had better report at Annapolis as ordered. We reported & were sent back almost immediately to Indianapolis to be discharged. All this was done in great haste.

Before closing these reminiscences I wish to say that thousands in the South were shocked at the treatment we received, but they dare not say anything. Davis and his Cabinet were the true parties to blame for our ill treatment. Under



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